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GOAL! WEEKLY

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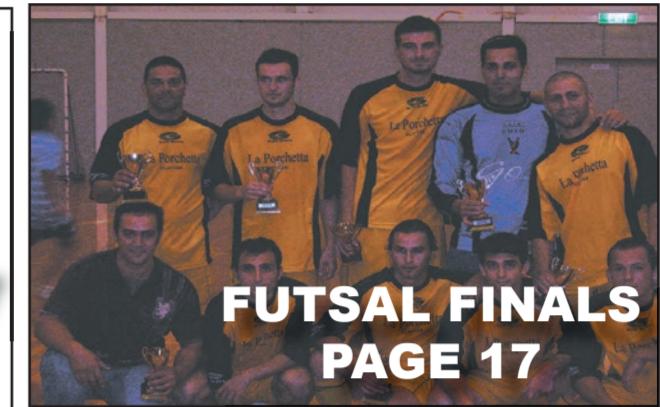
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VODAFONE CUP LATEST RESULTS

Cannons 1 - 0 Bergers
Eagles 0 - 1 Pines
Magic 2 - 1 Kingston
Knights 1 - 1 Royals
Georges 4 - 1 Lions
South 1 - 0 Blues
Zebras v Gully Playing Tonight



A-League
Finals
Pages 26-27

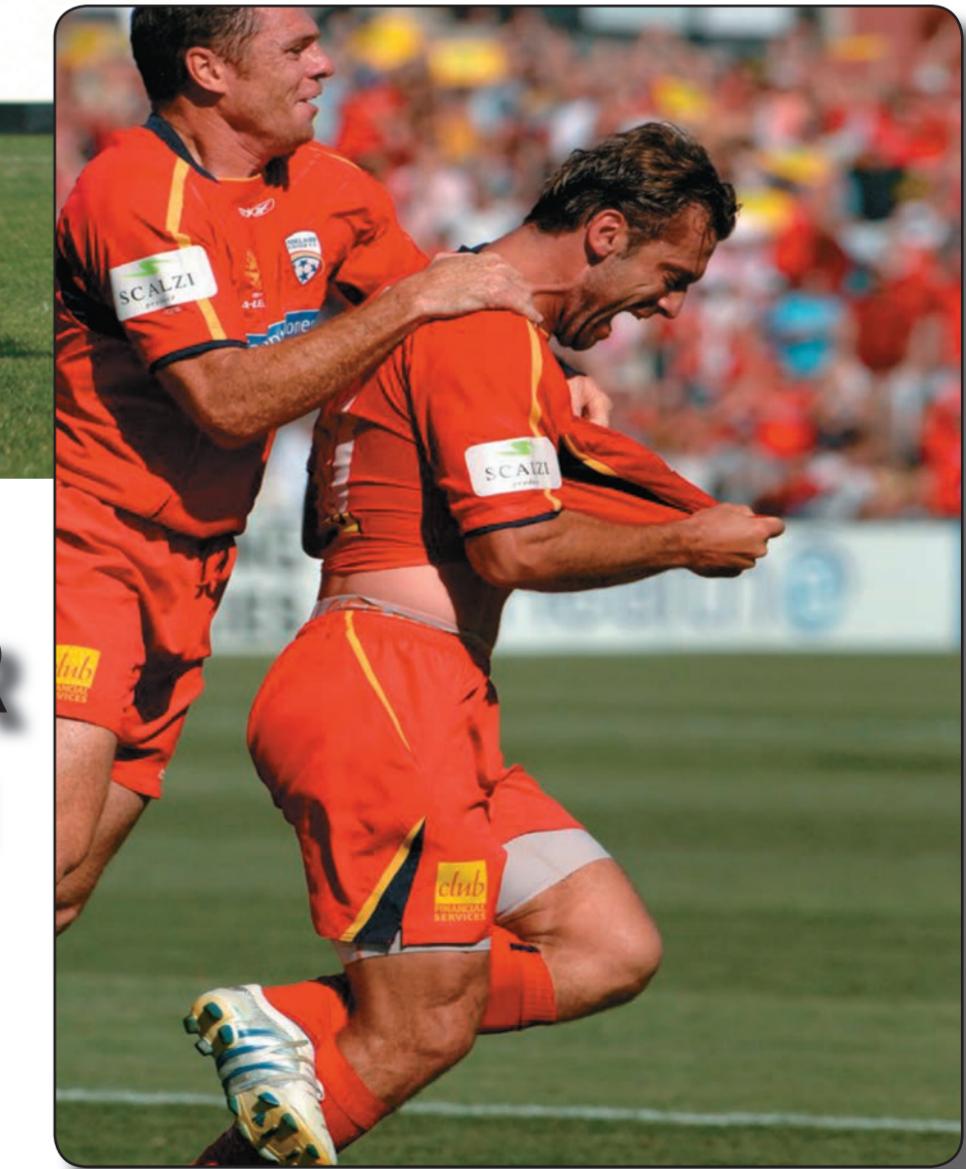


**FUTSAL FINALS
PAGE 17**



VODAFONE CUP

**SOUTH MAKES
EARLY
RUNNING**



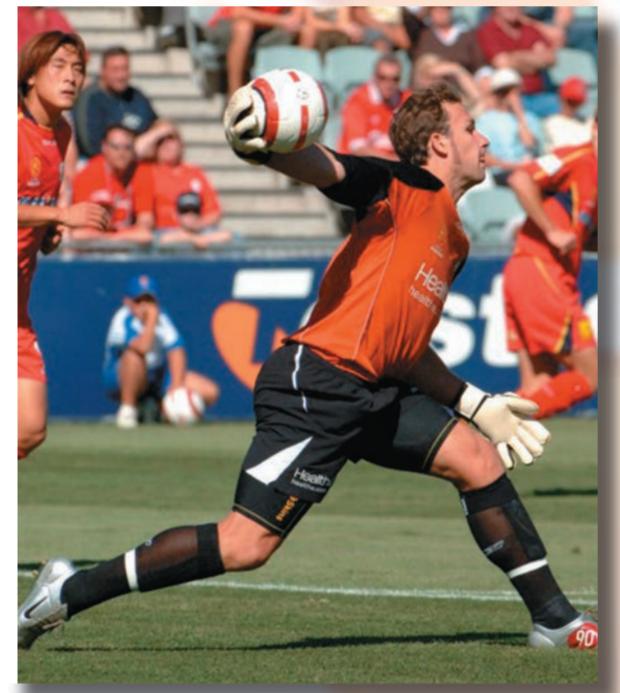
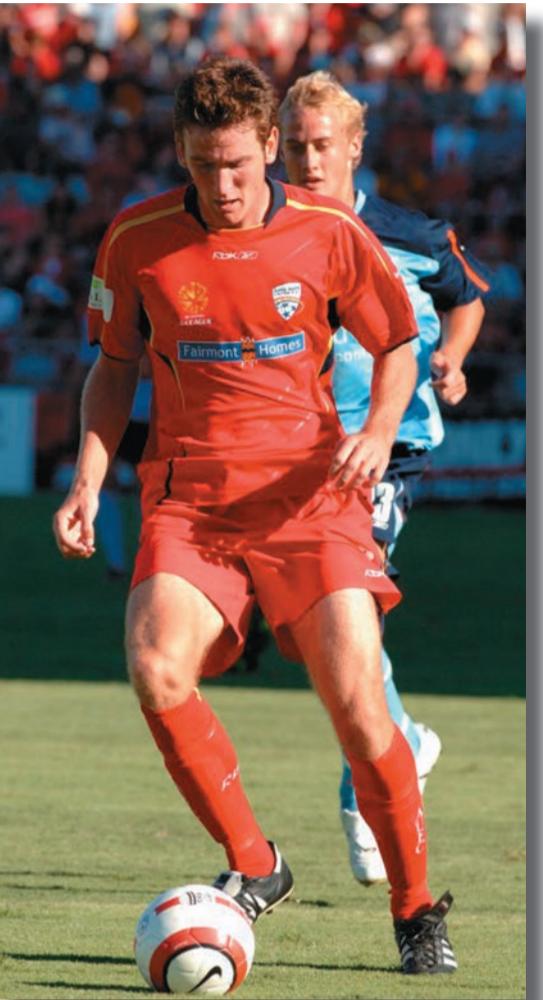
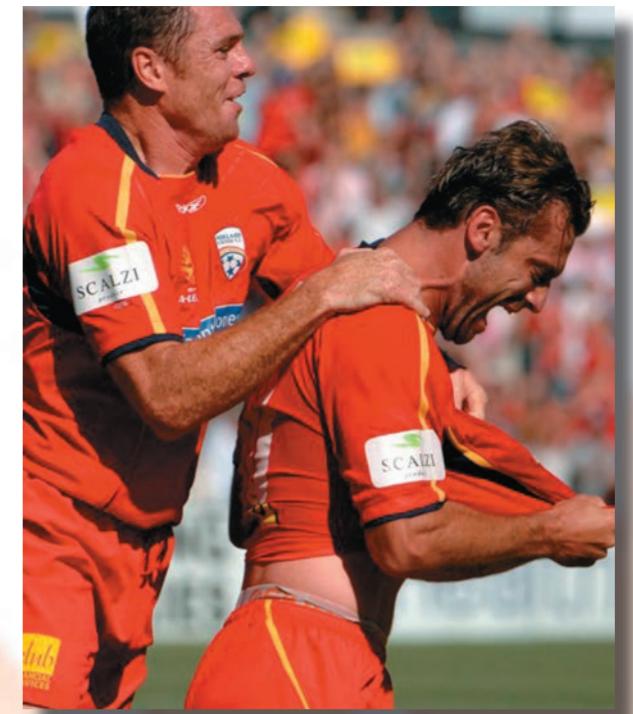
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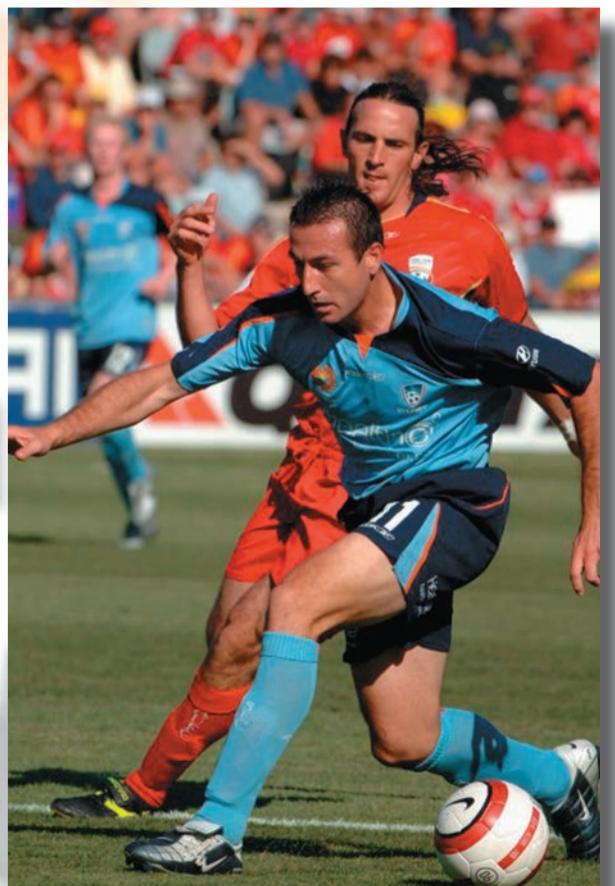
**VODAFONE CUP
ROUND TWO**



**A-LEAGUE MAJOR
SEMI FINAL
ADELAIDE UTD 2**



SYDNEY FC 2



SOCER HOTLINE

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DOBSON HANDS IN RESIGNATION

After leading Green Gully to another VPL Championship in the club's 50th Anniversary Year in 2005, Dobson informed the club at the conclusion of training on Thursday night that he will relinquish his position at the club due to personal reasons.

Goal! Weekly got in touch with Dobson and asked what exactly prompted him to give up the reins of one of the league's powerhouse clubs?

"Well, there's a simple explanation; Green Gully and I have parted ways. My wife needs my full support for the next two to three months, so I'm out of the coaching circle for the next few months," said Dobson.

"It's the right thing to do as she's supported me through many years of football and I need to support her in this time" added Dobson.

As one would expect Green Gully tried to persuade Dobbo to stay on even if it meant that he could delegate some of his responsibility to an assistant.

"The club was obviously very disappointed, but have been very supportive at the same time. They gave me the option to

stay on as the head coach, but I've obviously demanded full commitment from everyone around me at whatever team I've coached. It would be a bit hypocritical of myself to go in and do a reduced training schedule and not be fully committed to the task of what I had to do," added Dobson.

Former Socceroo and Melbourne Knights strongman Andrew Marth has been quickly appointed as Dobson's replacement but many of the Gully faithful must now be wondering if this means Gully will go from a title contender to a strugger. Andrew has had stints as coach at St Albans, Green Gully and Melbourne Knights but only time will tell if he will be able to transfer his skills as a player onto the coaching scene.

As for Dobson he has made it clear that he will not have any involvement in coaching until his personal situation changes.

"We'll see what happens, but we'll look



Four time VPL Championship winning coach
Ian Dobson calls it quits.

forward to see what happens in the next three months or so and I will probably be back in the merry-go-round from that point onwards".

We wish Ian and his wife all the very best.



ZEBRA NUMBER ONE

Bulleen has awarded its number one ticket for season 2006 to none other than entertainer Santo Cilauro.

Cilauro's father, Vito, is a Life Member of the FFV and has been a long time servant of the game fulfilling many roles during his time in football.

Following in his fathers foot steps, Santo has been a life long fan of the world game and a long time advocate of football through his various media roles and he is ecstatic about being bestowed the Zebras ultimate accolade.

"What an honour it was to be asked to be the Number One Ticket Holder for the Bulleen Zebras - I believe the choice

was between me and Damir Dokic," says the jovial Cilauro.

"I thank the committee and look forward to a great season for the team. Go Zebras!"

Bulleen spokesperson Christian Argenti can't hide his delight either.

"The Bulleen Zebras are excited to welcome Santo Cilauro as the club's Number 1 Ticket Holder for the 2006 season. Santo is a great football fan and a first class guy. We look forward to officially unveiling him to our supporters before our first home game this Monday evening."

GOAL! WEEKLY BRIGHTENS UP YOUR MONDAYS

Dear readers,

We know it's a bit early in the piece to be handing out awards, but Goal! Weekly would like to take this opportunity to thank you for your support thus far.

As you're already aware, the local season has kicked off in a big way and we've committed ourselves to bringing you the best coverage in Victorian football in print media for 2006.

We were quite busy during the summer months doing a type of pre-season of our own; building a website, re-designing the look of the 'paper', introducing more colour pages and of course, Goal! Weekly now brings you all the weekend's football news on Mondays.

Whether your team won, drew or lost, you can still be a winner with the cheapest, freshest, brightest and only publication dedicated to Victorian football.

We've been absolutely chuffed by the support we've received from the clubs too.

Many local clubs have wasted no time in proving they know a good thing when they see one, by pledging their support and backing Victoria's Premier Football Newspaper.

We take our hat off to the following clubs, who have shown the foresight to subscribe to GW and put something back into the game:

Altona Magic FC, Bulleen Zebras FC, Essendon Royals FC, Fawkner/Whittlesea Stallions FC, Frankston Pines FC, Green Gully Cavaliers FC, Heidelberg United FC, Kingston City FC, Melbourne Knights FC, Oakleigh Cannons FC, Richmond Eagles FC, Sunshine Georgies FC, Brunswick City FC, Eastern Lions FC, Melbourne Knights JSC and Knox City FC.

Once again, thanks for all your support.

We hope you've enjoyed what we've dished up so far and look forward to being a staple part of your Monday football diet in what promises to be a massive year in Australian and Victorian football.

Cheers,

Ed.



VODAFONE CUP DETAILS



ROUND ONE DETAILS

OAKLEIGH CANNONS 1 - 0 HEIDELBERG UNITED

CROWD: 2,000

GOALS: B.Damianos (OC) 34th.

YELLOW CARDS: C.Pino(OC) 5th, T.Oularis (HU) 10th, A.Gjuni (HU) 12th, S.Laurie(HU) 20th, A.Westerveld (HU) 47th.

RED CARDS: C.Pino (OC) 70th.

CANNONS: S.Webster, S.Laurie, F.Rosman, S.Poutakidis, A.Kovacic, G.Goutzioulis, B.Damianos, (E.Masi 52nd), P.Kakos (R.Kumar 71st), A.Pelikan (J.Drossos 90th), C.Pino.

BERGERS: L.Acevski, R.Liparotti, D.Jones, P.Roberts, L.Tsoumerkas (F.Richards 74th), E.Vassiliadis, Y.Yusef, A.Gjuni (G.Parissos 62nd), A.Westervelt (N.Sabljak 74th), T.Oularis, N.Marinos.

RICHMOND EAGLES 0 - 1 FRANKSTON PINES

CROWD: 600

GOALS: N.Waite (FP) .

YELLOW CARDS: A.Ross (RE) 36th, C.Metcalfe (FP) 46th, M.Anderson (FP) 78th, A.Naglieri (FP) 88th.

RED CARDS: C.Metcalfe (FP) 51st.

EAGLES: N.Crossley, B.Beni (S.Rusmir 59th), S.Webster, S.Burton, A.Ross, J.Rajher (J.Baskerville 59th), C.Jones (F.O'Colmain 74th), T.Celentano, D.Visevic, G.Hockless, V.Korkarevski.

PINES: B.Zealley (K.Mcivor 25th), D.Djubic, J.Cumming, M.Anderson, C.Metcalfe, B.Oucin, A.Naglieri, A.Oliviera. (D.D'angelo 74th), N.Waite, C.Leopold, A.Psonis (K.Patterson 52nd),

ALTONA MAGIC 2 - 1 KINGSTON CITY

CROWD: 1000

GOALS: J.Spiteri (KC) 15th, Own Goal (AM) 41st, T.Razov (AM) 53rd.

YELLOW CARDS: J.Di Iorio (KC) 41st, I.Arsovski (AM) 54th, S.Becvinovski (AM) 65th, C.Kostans (KC) 85th.

RED CARDS: None.

MAGIC: B.Jevdevic, L.Osman, D.Mladenovic, K.Delev, K.Delev, A.Opazo, T.Razov (I.Kolevski 75th), A.Sherifovski, P.Cergovski, I.Razov (I.Arsovski 23rd), S.Becvinovski (V.Trpevski 74th).

KINGSTON: M.Turnball, S.Iosifidis, C.Anthopoulos, C.Konstantas, M.Stergiopoulos (D.Tsiaras HT), M.Curcija, J.Di Iorio, J.Spiteri, J.Latinopoulos, A.Kiratzoglou, N.Tolios. (N.Papadopoulos 14th).

SOUTH MELBOURNE 1 - 0 FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA

CROWD: 2000

GOALS: K.Nelson (SM)

YELLOW CARDS:

RED CARDS: None.

STH MELBOURNE: D.Anastasiadis, A.Tsonis, C.Blatsis, E.Karavitis, P.Koutsopoulos, A.Tsirtakis, J.Salley, R.Tavascioglu, F.De Moraes, T.Banser, S.MacNicol.

BLUES: Unavailable at time of print

SUNSHINE GEORGIES 4 - 1 PRESTON LIONS

CROWD:

GOALS: T.Neceski (SG) 2, D.Delic (SG), M.Gasparis (SG), S.Oksuz (PL)

YELLOW CARDS:

RED CARDS: None.

GEORGIES: M.John, I.Erdogan, C.Azzopardi, E.Suarez, T.Waterson, D.Delis, E.Muscat, B.Gilmour, S.Kovacevic, T.Neceski.

LIONS: G.Grueski, Z.Younan, L.Anastasiou, P.Dimovski, T.Devrimol, S.Manceski, S.Oksuz, A.Magnacca, A.Jankovski, S.Solevski, S.Pace.

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS 1 - 1 ESSENDON ROYALS

CROWD: 2500

GOALS: N.Caldwell (MK) 43rd minute, L.Catalano (ER) 73rd minute.

YELLOW CARDS: R.Casey (MK) 58th, G.Talevski (MK) 93rd, D.Matlovic (MK) 72nd

RED CARDS: None.

KNIGHTS: A.Cagalj, T.Milardovic, N.Antic, R.Casey, C.Elvin, M.Maisano (H.Matkovic 74th), J.Kozic, G.Talevski, D.Natkovic, L.Slater (A.Barisic 84th), N.Caldwell.

ROYALS: M.Sutalo, D.Pilic, N.Thomas, S.Pir, N.Schwall, J.Youseff, L.Catalano, F.Catalano, M.Catalano (D.Ferguson 82nd), M.Medjedovic, C.Miles

VODAFONE CUP TABLE

Seniors	P	W	D	L	F	A	PT
South Melb	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Altona	2	2	0	0	4	2	6
Oakleigh	2	2	0	0	3	1	5
Knights	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
Bulleen	1	1	0	0	2	0	3
Sunshine	2	1	0	1	4	2	3
Richmond	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Kingston	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Frankston	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Essendon	2	0	1	1	3	4	1
Green Gully	1	0	0	1	1	2	0
Fawkner	2	0	0	2	1	3	0
Heidelberg	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Preston	2	0	0	2	2	7	0

LAST MONDAY'S MATCH - ROUND ONE

MAGIC COME FROM BEHIND



FAWKNER/WHITTLESEA 1 - ALTONA MAGIC 2



Altona Magic kicked off its 2006 Vodafone Cup campaign in winning style, taking away all three points from Epping stadium with a 2-1 victory over Fawkner Whittlesea.

The Blues created the better chances of the first half, with youngster Gregory Lombardo getting in on the play and Michael Bosevski opening up some early chances in front of goals.

But it was Sasa Ognenovski who set the scoreboard alight in the 12th minute of play, with an early strike that handed the Blues an instant lead.

Another goal looked to be on the cards just minutes later when impressive signing Jurica Siljanoski reached out to Johnny Sapazovski just outside of goals, but a lonely cross found no one in place to tap the ball home and left Fawkner Whittlesea unable to further its lead.

With the first half drawing to a close and both teams desperate to make it count, the players threw caution to the wind whilst the referee just threw cautions. But it was the yellow card that dealt Altona its first real shot of the match, though Alfonzo Opazo wasn't to make anything out of a free kick after the ball fell wide of the left upright.

The Magic fought hard for the equalizer in the dying minutes of the half, but a header by vice captain Koce Delev in front of goals missed its target, whilst a free kick taken by Levent Osman shared a similar fate and failed to level the scores heading into the break.

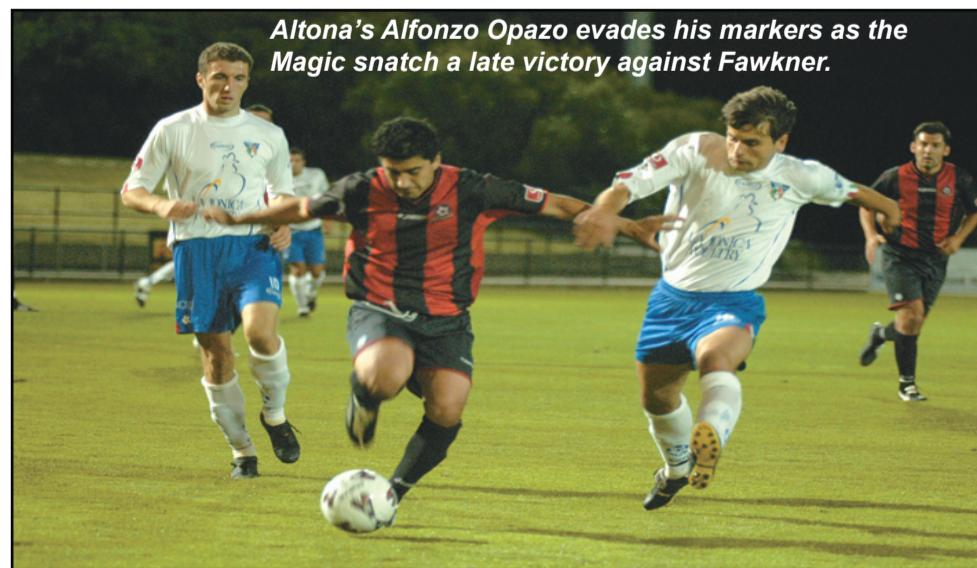
Altona came out firing in the second half with Sash Becvinovski twirling the ball into the net to keep the Magic in the game.

Not satisfied with delivering the equalizer, Becvinovski doubled his tally within two minutes of creating his first, chipping the ball over Blues 'keeper Steven Tilovski to hand Altona the lead.

Midfielder Ricky Chillico was brought into the squad in place of defender Mark Vazochi to try and create some extra spark upfront for Fawkner Whittlesea, and whilst they continued to create chances with Siljanoski leading the charge on the frontline, nothing was able to pull the Blues back into the game.

The scoreboard was locked 1-2 at the final whistle, and after a slow start Altona was able to fight their way back from behind, kick starting their season with a hard fought three points to their name.

By Talia Cerritelli



LEADING GOALSCORERS

ROUND 3 FIXTURES

KINGSTON CITY V STH MELBOURNE

The Grange Reserve, Kingston Mel: 79 F8 Friday 17th Feb KO 8.15pm

ESSENDON ROYALS V SUNSHINE GEORGIES

Veneto Social Club, Bulleen Mel: 32 D9 Friday 17th Feb KO 8.15pm

ALTONA MAGIC V PRESTON LIONS

Paisley Park Reserve Mel: 55 C5 Saturday 18th Feb KO 7.30pm

GREEN GULLY V FRANKSTON PINES

Green Gully Reserve Mel: 14 E8 Sunday 19th Feb KO 6pm

HEIDELBERG UTD V

BULLEEN ZEBRAS Olympic Village Mel: 19 D11 Sunday 19th Feb KO 6pm

MELBOURNE KNIGHTS V RICHMOND EAGLES

Knights Stadium Mel: 27 A6 Sunday 19th Feb KO 6pm



VODAFONE CUP

Round 2



DOGGED ROYALS HOLD KNIGHTS

**ROYALS OPEN UP 2006 ACCOUNT**

Melbourne Knights 1 - Essendon Royals 1

A dogged Essendon Royals held out their highly fancied opponents, the Melbourne Knights' to a 1-1 draw, earning the visitors a valuable away point. The 1-1 draw at Sommers Street on Sunday evening in front of 3,000 patrons will be seen by Knights' coach, Josip Biskic, as three points squandered, as his team failed to make most of its' opportunities.

Both sides arm wrestled for control in the midfield, with neither team posing a threat to the scoreboard. It took 30 minutes of numbing action for the first real chance of the game to eventuate. A blazing run by Knights' fullback, Neven Antic, finally opened the game. Nathan Caldwell's header was well blocked by Royals new signing, Marco Sutalo, and Luke Slater's follow up was also stopped by Royals debutant, Sutalo.

The Royals countered with their first attempt in the 36th minute with a sizzling long range strike by David Pilic. Unfortunately for the visitors, all their

great defensive toil was thrown away by Royals strong man, Serdar Pir in the 42nd minute, who unnecessarily upended Dario Matkovic outside the box. From the ensuing Matkovic free kick, Nathan Caldwell headed home the games opener.

Four minutes after the restart, a Royal's defensive blunder gifted Dario Matkovic with a golden opportunity from five yards out, but fortunately for the visitors, Matkovic poked his shot wide.

The Knights' were beginning to take a strangle hold on the game, and almost doubled their lead in the 64th minute after neat one-two between Kozic and Slater, which opened up the Royals defense. Unfortunately Kozic's close range strike was well stopped by Sutalo, and Cameron Miles cleared Talelevski's follow up from the goal line.

The Royals' equalized against the run of play in the 72nd after a Len Catalano header from a Frank Catalano free

kick.

The Knights' desperately pressed for a winner, squandering countless opportunities. In the end Royals new signing Marko Sutalo proved to be an inspired signing, as a resolute Royals outfit held out for a valuable away draw.

By Bruno Zovko

Joe Biskic
Coach, Melbourne Knights:

Unavailable for comment

Luciano Trani
Coach, Essendon Royals:

Unavailable for comment





VODAFONE CUP

Round 2



WORLD CUP BOUND NELSON SCORES ON DEBUT

SOUTH GRABS POLE POSITION IN VODAFONE CUP



South Melbourne 1 - Fawkner/Whittlesea 0

South Melbourne debutante Kevin Nelson made up for the disappointment of missing last week's derby with Heidelberg by heading home the winner in their 1-0 defeat of Fawkner-Whittlesea.

Coach John Markovski was a surprise inclusion in the Blues starting lineup as they went in search of their first points of the season at the Lakeside oval.

He joined striker Mark Tsiorlas in attack pushing Johnny Sapasovski into a five man midfield.

South welcomed new striker Nelson as their lone spearhead in place of Peter Koutsoupias in an otherwise unchanged side, looking to capitalize on their winning start the previous week.

In a lacklustre first half, both sides struggled to control possession in a congested midfield. South won

several corners but were unable to trouble Fawkner keeper Kyriakos Gerohristodoulou.

The complexion of the game changed early in the second half. South coach introduced the speedy George Tzirtis into the middle in place of Arthur Tsirtsakis.

Almost immediately, a sequence of rapid passing involving Nelson and Fernando DeMoraes put Con Blassis in behind the Fawkner back three with only the keeper to beat. Blassis's side foot shot from 10 metres was well saved down low to his left by keeper Gerohristodoulou.

John Markovski and his marker Arthur Tsonis clashed, sparking the crowd to life and earning both players a yellow card.

Fawkner lost centre half John Angelovski forcing them to reorganize their defence. The game opened up

increasingly for South whose running players Scott MacNicol and Tzirtis linked well with the skillful De Moraes, and began to stretch the Fawkner team.

Nelson's pace was also telling up front and he could have opened the scoring in the 70 th minute when a Tzirtis throughball saw him round the keeper only to see Fawkner's Greg Lombardo clear on the last line of defence.

South's increasing pressure told in the 76th minute when Nelson headed home a MacNicol cross to mark his debut with a goal. He came off in injury time to a standing ovation.

Fawkner had a chance to snatch what would have been a lucky draw in the dying moments when Jurica Siljanovski mishit a Sapasovski cut back.

By George Stogiannou

**John Anastasiadis
Coach, South Melbourne :**

I think we dominated and controlled the game. We just couldn't manage to put the ball in the back of the net. I think our fitness levels and our midfield combination was part of our reliance. Admittedly, we should have had more to show for it but at the end of the day we got the three points and that's what it's all about.

**Tony Ciancer
Asst Coach, Fawkner:**

Unavailable for comment





VODAFONE CUP

Round 8



GOALS GALORE AT CHAPLIN RESERVE



GEORGIES SPANK TEN MAN PRESTON

Sunshine Georgies 4 - Preston Lions 1

A DOUBLE to front man Tony Necesski helped Sunshine Georgies to a 4-1 victory against a 10-man Preston on Saturday.

In front of a boisterous home crowd at Chaplin Reserve, the Lions were restricted to 10 men after 30 minutes and could not contain a rampant Sunshine outfit.

While it had full use of its resources, Preston had the first meaningful attack on goal, a blasted shot by Robert Dovelski which cannoned off the cross bar and out of danger in the first 10 minutes.

It was the only chance for either side in the first 20 minutes, before the game sprung to life on the back of two minutes of sheer brilliance for the home side.

With 21 minutes gone in the half, Trent Waterson broke free down the right flank and crossed expertly for Georgies striker Necesski, who got his head to the ball before Preston goalkeeper Goce Gruevski could do anything to stop it.

Only a minute later, before the visitors had a chance to regroup, Sunshine had its second when Dusko Delic finished

clinically after some fine work of Brett Gilmour.

At the half hour mark the Georgies could have gone three up when Necesski latched onto a long ball from defence before being brought down just outside the area but the advancing Gruevski.

The keeper was given his marching orders by the referee, but the Georgies could not capitalise on the free kick and the score remained 2-0.

Remarkably, with only 10 men on the pitch, Preston hit back on 36 minutes when the elusive Serkan Oksuz found space behind the Sunshine defence and finished powerfully with his right boot. After an eventful first 45 minutes the Georgies were on track for their first victory of the season, but the crowd could sense there were more goals in the offering in the second period.

Despite the rest, chances on goal did not dry up after half time, and again it was Sunshine which took the initiative after with a cleverly taken free kick by Necesski sent Waterson through on goal, but his shot was blocked by the scrambling defense.

Three minutes later Oksuz had only the keeper to beat but a weak shot was easily kept out.

Another golden chance fell to Sunshine import Craig Platt in the 61st minute, but he failed to find the back of the net with only the keeper in front of him.

It was the ever-reliable Necesski who pounced on a misfired shot by Johnny Cvetanoski in the 71st minute, tapping in from the near post to make it 3-1.

The gaps in the Preston defence continued to show up late in the half, and Georgies skipper Manny Muscat came close to notching his side's fourth of the match soon after.

Substitute Marinos Gasparis completed the rout in the 86th minute, coolly slotting the ball past Preston stand-in keeper Daniel Zilic after a deft back heel from Necesski.

Tony Necesski



Chris Taylor
Coach, Sunshine Georgies :

The Premier league is the Premier League. They could have been two up before we even got into their half.. We had a little bit of luck today...they had a man sent off and to be honest they're not that bad a side. Not as bad a side as where they are in the league if you know what I mean. Things went for us today and it was a great result.

Vlado Vanis
Coach, Preston Lions:

Unavailable for comment

By James Taylor

SOME MOMENTS REQUIRE THE BEST



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Monday 13 February



VODAFONE CUP

Round 2



CANNONS HANG ON IN THRILLER

STRIKE BY DAMIANOS ENOUGH AGAINST FORMER CLUB



Oakleigh Cannons 1 - Heidelberg Utd 0

It was a highly charged encounter which had all the hallmarks of a classic derby. In front of in excess of 1,500 spectators this engrossing encounter could have seen either side take the spoils. Unfortunately for the hapless Bergers, it was one of their own favourite sons who sunk them, when Bill Damianos scored in the 35th minute to send the home fans into raptures and go some way to repaying the enormous transfer fee paid by the Cannons.

Oakleigh had the better of the early exchanges and should have found taken the lead, had it not been for an in form Lou Acevski who brilliantly denied Peter Kakos twice, before Cameron Pino missed a glorious opportunity from inside the box when his shot flew wide of the upright.

In the 35th minute the deadlock was broken, when a persistent run by Kakos who seemed to have lost the ball down the right wing, continued a great run and supplied a cut back cross to the running Damianos who calmly side footed his shot past a despairing Acevski. Damianos who had little involvement in the match to this point was overjoyed and could not contain his delight.

The second half opened with both teams full of running and Kakos again continued to try his luck from range, however he continued to be frustrated by Acevski who was keeping his side in the game. Meanwhile at the other end, Bergers new signing Westerwelt was proving a handful and was involved in the majority of the Bergers moves. With Heidelberg desperate for an equaliser, young substitute Sorinos Parisos was thrown into the fray and almost scored with his first touch, however his cheeky chip was thwarted by a solid Stuart Webster.

With the game being played at a frenetic pace, the Cannons defence began to tire and looked vulnerable as they were exposed on several occasions. They struggled to deal with the pace, and Heidelberg began to press in search of an equaliser. The match then took a controversial twist when former Seville youth player Pino who had been dangerous on the left wing, was cautioned for an innocuous challenge in the middle of the park. The home fans were then left stunned, when the winger instantly received a second caution and told to take an early shower, after he was deemed to have pleaded his case for too long and with disrespect.

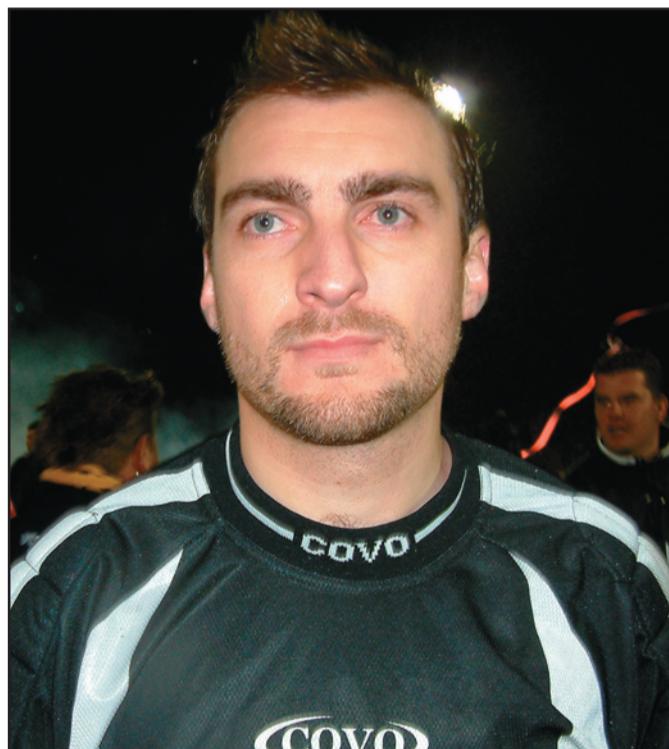
The numerical advantage enticed the Warriors to further press and they began to throw numbers forward only for their moves to lack penetration at the final hurdle. In the 87th minute substi-

tute Parisos again found space behind the Cannons defence and was able to round Webster with the goals at his mercy, however as the striker saw his name in Goal! Weekly's headline, a courageous Anton Kovacevic threw his body in the way and was able to deflect the ball wide of the goals.

With Parisos clearly causing trouble for the Cannons, they seemed willing to try anything to stop him from scoring. Oakleigh's captain Felix Rosman must have a closet dream of becoming a "Bollywood" actor, when he uncharacteristically feigned injury after a confrontation with the young striker. Unfortunately his cowardly act was not spotted by the officials and resulted in a caution for Parisos who could only look on in dismay. This was the final meaningful action for the evening and the match finished 1-0 to the home side.

Stuart Munro will be ecstatic with two hard fought character building victories against two quality sides. In contrast, Heidelberg's Phil Stubbins will be feeling the pressure after two derby losses.

By Chris Priftis



Berger's keeper Lou Acevski was beaten by his old team mate Bill Damianos

Stuart Munro
Coach, Oakleigh Cannons :
We knew it was going to be a difficult game for us. I was fairly happy going in to the break 1-0 up and I thought we did quite well in the first-half. It was disappointing we lost a player with about twenty minutes to go which made life a little bit difficult for us, and obviously Heidelberg ended up throwing everything at us towards the end. I thought we did well under the circumstances. Last week we played an attractive brand of football and this week we had to roll the sleeves up a bit. It was quite good to know that the team was prepared to do both things and I'm very satisfied.

Phil Stubbins
Coach, Heidelberg Utd :
Personally I thought it was a very good game. I thought as a spectacle it was a good game to watch and I was quite happy with the boys' performance. Oakleigh obviously have got a very good side and at times technically were better than us, but overall, it was a pretty even match. Obviously disappointed not get the three points, but I'm sure with our preparation we've got some good times ahead. We played a forceful and penetrating game in the second half, but unfortunately we just couldn't find the back of the net. If we can string a few good results together over the next five to six weeks, I don't see it being a problem for us.

CANNONS OFF TO BALLARAT

Meanwhile, the Oakleigh Cannons are heading off to Ballarat this weekend.

Coach Stuart Munro actually wanted to take the boys away for some intense training and team spirit bonding during the summer months, but due to a successful pre-season, where it captured the Hel-

lenic Cup, were unable to afford the time. With a ten day period before its next fixture (against Fawkner next Monday night at Epping Stadium),

Munro thought it would be a perfect exercise to build on its promising start to the season.

NILO ON THE COMEBACK

Oakleigh's Juan Nilo is looking to be back into contention for a first team spot.

He missed about four weeks of pre-season but has been working hard lately to regain fitness. Oakleigh plays a friendly with Bentleigh Greens on Wednesday night

and will use the opportunity for Nilo and fellow striker, Esala Masi, to build match fitness.



VODAFONE CUP

Round 8



MAGIC COME BACK FROM BEHIND ONCE AGAIN



RAZOV NETS WINNER, STERGIOPoulos SCORES TOO!

Altona Magic 2 - Kingston City 1

On a fine evening new boys Kingston City played their first away game in the Vodafone Cup and were pretty well beaten in a game that was by no means a classic but which early in the season demonstrates potential.

The game had a scrappy start with neither team could gain a clear foothold in possession. After 10 minutes or so Kingston began to get a passing game together and obtained the ascendancy when a through ball found Kingston captain Joe Spiteri unmarked. Spiteri ran in and spanked the ball past Jevdevic to give the visitors an early lead.

From this point on the game turned, Altona began getting into the game more and more and Kingston's defenders were struggling to cope with the pressure being exerted upon them. Mistakes were becoming regular and at times the defensive unit of Kingston seemed unsure of itself and were often second to the ball.

Kingston had an opportunity from a free kick but last seasons' top scorer Michael Curcija blasted the ball narrowly over the bar, this was to be Kinston's best chance of the game

This was brought to bear when some offensive pressure by Altona saw a ball whipped into the box and Marcus Stergiopoulos, returning to the ground he played at last season, turned the ball past a bewildered Turnbull to level the game at one goal a piece at the half.

In the second half Altona totally dominated proceedings. The Magic had possession and had the

penetration, whilst Kingston spent all of its time on the back foot and its much vaunted attack line had little opportunity to actually shine. The winner came about 10 minutes into the half when a through ball put Tommi Razov in a one on one situation. With only Turnbull to beat Razov unleashed a classic shot, which beat the keeper all ends up.

Altona continued to dominate the game and created a number of half chances, but at the end of the day the score finished two goals to one and a deserved win to the Magic.

The Magic will be amongst the thick of it. Altona might not have the names of other squads but in Ken Murphy they have a shrewd coach and a hard working group of players.

Kingston for all their attacking potential will have problems if their defence does not gel together and if they play like they did on Saturday. They looked slow and disorganized and while they will get better as they chalk up games it has to be a concern for their coach, George Katsakis.

Next week both teams are at home with Kingston hosting South Melbourne on Friday night whilst on Saturday night Altona entertain the Preston Lions.

Also of note, Magic's new signing from Perth Glory Danny Vasilevski played extremely well in the reserves in a 7-0 defeat of Kingston City. Danny also scored a hatrick

By Reuben Schembri

Ken Murphy
Coach, Altona Magic :

I felt quite comfortable with everything even though it was a close scoreline. They scored first again for the second week in a row, but the guys showed good character to plug away and managed to get the two goals. I always felt we were more likely to get the third one before they could get a second. We've got a younger team than them and in my opinion I thought we looked a touch more mobile and a bit too quick for them at times.

I felt quite comfortable with our pre-season preparation and I think that showed in our first two games... we're looking extremely competitive. I'm looking forward to the next game already.

George Katsakis
Coach, Kingston City :

We've just got to move on. I suppose it's a good time of the year for it to happen. It's a bit of a wake up call. We started off really strongly, hit the lead and were doing things pretty comfortably. For some reason we dropped off, started to look vulnerable and let them come at us which is when their first goal came. We discussed all the issues at half-time...we thought we got it right, but again the marking in the back third was a bit ordinary which gave them the opportunity to hit the front. As much as we tried, I think frustration got to us towards the end where we couldn't break through and obviously we went down. We can only learn from our mistakes and there were definitely some there.

We've just got to pick up on them and get it right.



Magic's Sash Becvinovski raises his arms in delight as the ball rebounds off former team-mate Marcus Stergiopoulos to level the scores.



VODAFONE CUP

Round 8



GUTSY PINES HANG ON FOR “AWAY” VICTORY



EAGLES CREATE CHANCES, BUT UNABLE TO BREAK DOWN TEN MEN

Frankston Pines 1 - Richmond Eagles 0

What a game! This game had everything from numerous clearances off the line and heroic saves by Pines keeper Kieran McIvor to a melee in the goal and another red card.

Last week, the Richmond Eagles started their sortie at the highest level with a first up smash and grab win over Essendon at the Veneto club, whilst Frankston Pines struggled to a loss at home to Bulleen after having been reduced to ten men in the first ten minutes of the season. For this game, Richmond had to travel to Frankston's Monterey Boulevard fortress after giving up home ground advantage due to their ground still being made ready for Vodafone Cup action.

The Eagles made a change to the starting line up from last week with Cameron Jones replacing the injured Jezza Sulemani and Pines had an enforced change with Andreas Oliviera coming in for the suspended Billy Armour.

Richmond started off the better team looking sharp and moving the ball around well which culminated in Cameron Jones hitting the crossbar in the eighth minute following a missed clearance by Boris Ovcin. Brad Zealley was called into action when the Eagles broke through when Pines were caught square pushing up with Nick Waite keeping the Eagles onside.

Pines worked their way into the match and had a great break started by a quick release from Zealley to Craig Metcalfe who passed inside to Tony Naglieri who knocked it into the path of Ovcin. His cross to the back post was met by Andreas Oliviera with his header going just over the top right corner of the goal.

Pines keeper Zealley, who injured his knee early in the game, was substituted for Kieran McIvor in the 27th minute.

A hand ball by Josip Rajher at the top of the area saw Nick Crossley tip over the bar from the Naglieri free kick. Then in the 33rd minute, the all important moment in the match where the three points were won with Craig Metcalfe keeping the ball alive deep in the Pines half. He passed it back to Dino Djubic who knocked a long hopeful ball, which Steve Burton attempted to head back to Crossley but Nick Waite pounced and chipped over the advancing keeper into the back of the net.

At the start of the second half, Metcalfe was booked and within five minutes had received a second booking for a red card and an early shower. For Pines it was backs against the wall for the second week in a row with ten men.

There was a melee in the goal following a challenge on McIvor by former Pines player,

Simon Webster.

Pines made a tactical change, bringing on Kris Patterson for Tas Psonis following the dismissal of Metcalfe.

Richmond scrambled the ball clear from their 6 yard area after a free kick by Naglieri.

Other subs were made with Baskerville, Rusmir and O'Colmain on and Beni, Rajher and Jones off for Richmond. Oliviera off and D'Angelo on for Pines.

From then on, it was all Richmond. They had shots cleared off the line, just missing across goal, hitting the crossbar and then there was Kieran McIvor. Whilst his coach and everybody else had their hearts in their mouth when he was trying to catch the ball, his shot stopping was sensational. He parried, blocked and at one stage ended up with the ball while lying on his back on the ground. Pines were down to 9 men for about ten minutes with Djubic off the field with the blood rule and all subs used but Richmond were unable to capitalise despite the siege they laid on the Pines goal with Graham Hockless, Sava Rusmir, Veton Korkarevski, Daniel Visevic and Jones all having shots saved or blocked.

By Mike Rand

Dean Hennessy

Coach, Richmond Eagles :

We started brightly for the first ten-fifteen minutes..hit the bar, missed a one on one... we lost our way a little bit and ended up conceding a pretty poor goal. We didn't play anywhere near what we're capable of and went into half-time disappointed with the performance. Second half, after they had a man sent off we took advantage and created quality chances, hit the woodwork three times, the keeper made three world class saves...but we just couldn't score! It was just one of those days where it wasn't meant to be. Although disappointed I'm very proud that we used the ball well, took the initiative, created good chances...but just couldn't finish it.

Craig Lewis:

Coach, Frankston Pines :

God, I feel absolutely shafted! It was an absolute cracker of game. We done very well and I thought we were the better side in the first-half. The referee gave us another red card, which I thought was pretty soft. We had to change our tactics again and then defended for about forty-five minutes. To be fair to Richmond we rode our luck a little bit but the spirit of this team is absolutely phenomenal. Anybody that takes three points off us this season will be well worth their victory because the lads I've got just never give up. When you come down here you know you're in for a game.





VODAFONE CUP

Round 2



CHAMPS LOOK TO PICK THEM-SELVES UP OFF THE CANVAS



ZEBRA'S IN NO MOOD FOR FAVOURS

Bulleen Zebras v Green Gully

Fresh from their 2-0 away win at Frankston last week, the resurgent Bulleen Zebras host defending champions, the Green Gully Cavaliers at the Veneto club tonight.

The reigning champions will be still smarting after last weeks 2-1 home loss to fellow title hopefuls, the Oakleigh Cannons. It wasn't the ideal start for Ian Dobson's men, but the manner in which the champions succumbed in round one would have definitely raised the ire of the Cavaliers' 'Gaffer'. Relinquishing a lead with just over a quarter of an hour of football left to play, and conceding two goals within minutes of each other is something the Cavaliers did not experience in their championship winning year. However saying that, Dobson shocked the Cavaliers earlier this week when he announced his resignation. Arguably Gully's most successful coach ever, Dobson leaves Gully at the hands of former Socceroo Andrew Marth to face the Zebras.

The home side will be still brimming with confidence after its first up win under new coach, Michael Michalakopoulos. Zebras' workman like performance at Frankston last week, which is arguably the toughest road trip in the Vodafone Cup wasn't pretty by all accounts, but the Zebras' performance does indicate that the back-

bone and the resolve of the team has stiffened substantially over the pre-season.

The Monday night clash at the Veneto club will be intriguing to say the least, as it will see the two former successive VPL Champions go head-to-head (The Zebras in 2004 and the Cavaliers in



2005 without back-

to-back loses.

2005). More importantly, this round two fixture will give us a clearer indication on where the two clubs lie in the Vodafone Cup food chain. However it will be difficult to back against the reigning champs' for another loss, as the Cavaliers went through season

Michael Michalakopoulos
Coach, Bulleen Zebras :

We're expecting a battle after Green Gully didn't do that well last week and are almost certainly out to amend their loss in Round One. It's a big opportunity for us to show what we can do at home after a good away win. It will be a hell of a challenge against the reigning Premiers....I think we're up for it and the boys are excited to get some points on the board early. We've got nothing to lose and hopefully we can get another favourable result like last week.

Andrew Marth
Coach, Green Gully :

"Unavailable for comment.."

Left: Gully's Brandon Vassallo is congratulated by Jeffrey Flemming.

Bottom Left: The Zebras celebrate at Monterey Reserve last weekend.

MONDAY MATCH STATS

	Zebras	Gully
Recent form HOME	W-L-L-D	L-W-D-W
Recent form AWAY	W-D-D-D	D-D-W-D

Next info is based on last 50 matches:

BZ	GG
Home win 38%	57%
Home draw 38%	29%
Home lost 23%	14%
Home goals 1.08 per match	1.14 per match
Away win 14%	38%
Away draw 36%	46%
Away lost 50%	15%
Away goals 0.64 per match	1.23 per match

PAST MATCHES:

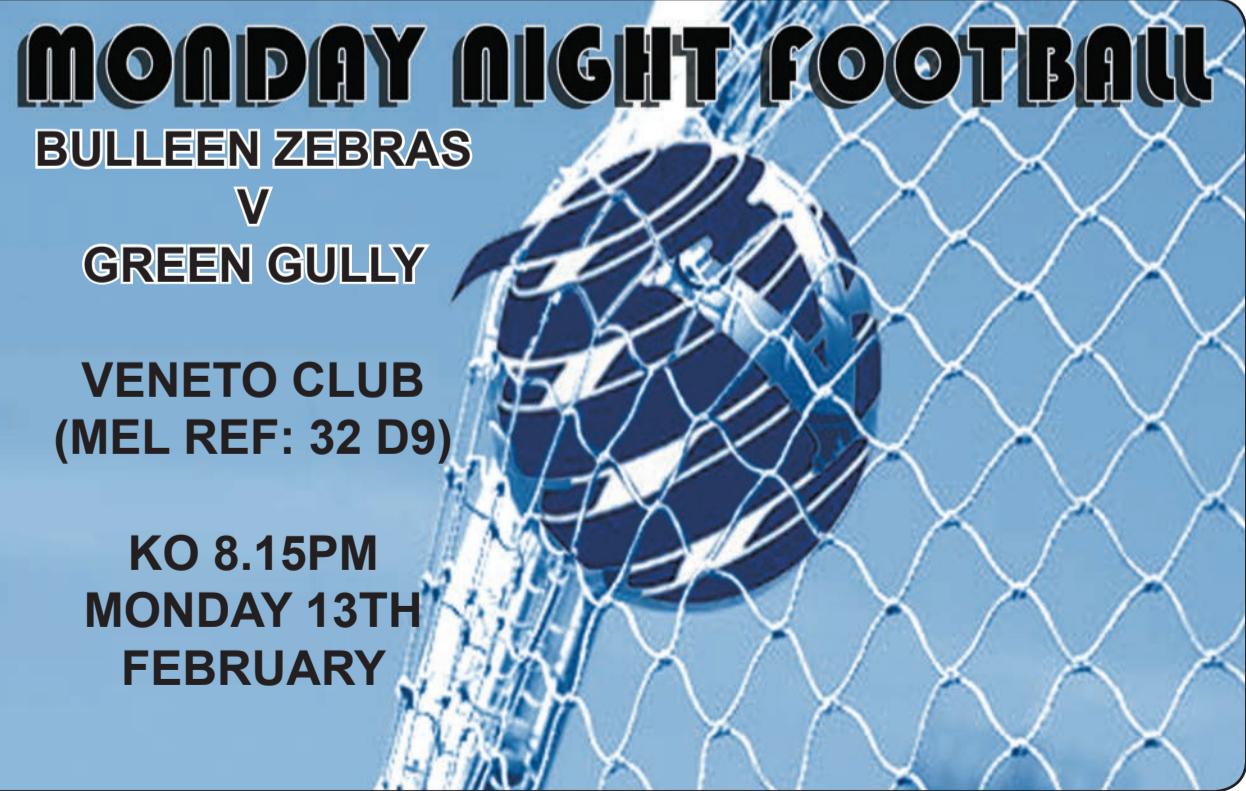
Bulleen v Green Gully	0 - 2
Green Gully v Bulleen	2 - 1

MONDAY NIGHT FOOTBALL

BULLEEN ZEBRAS

V

GREEN GULLY

VENETO CLUB
(MEL REF: 32 D9)KO 8.15PM
MONDAY 13TH
FEBRUARY

Monday 13 February

FOOTBALL FOCUS...WITH MARCO MAISANO

Melbourne Knights
Position: Midfield

Age: 25 (on Wednesday)

Outfield player you most enjoy watching in the VPL? In the world?

Josip Kozic (Knights) and in the world, Riquelme.

Hardest keeper and team to score against?

I haven't scored too many goals to know, but Adrian Cagalj at the Knights is a difficult one.

Occupation?

Managing Director of a Sports Consultancy firm (FirstPointUSA).

Craziest team mate of all time?

There's a few in the UK who were just nutters, but Hrvoje Matkovic at the Knights is up there.

Most influential coach of all time?

Jeff Olver, Joe McLaughlin (Scotland) really believed in my ability.

Most memorable match as a player?

Scottish Division 3, final game of the season. We needed to win to win the league and get promoted and we won 1-0 in front of a packed home crowd. The celebrations were incredible.



Knights: Ryan Casey and Marco Maisano

As a fan?

Boca Juniors vs Real Madrid. I watched it on TV at home and to this day I still have not seen a player dominate for such a long period of time, especially against a team with the calibre of Real. Riquelme put on a show!!!

Where were you when Australia drew 2-2 with Iran?

At the MCG, with my Dad, I was gut

ted, just like all Aussies, as they were so close.

And when Australia qualified for the World Cup against Uruguay?

In my living room, with friends, having a few beers.

Predict the following results:

Australia vs Japan - 2-1

Australia vs Brazil - 0-2

Australia vs Croatia - 1-1

Your tip for the 2006 World Cup?

Argentina.

For the Hyundai A-League?

Sydney FC.

Representative honours?

Victorian State Team U13,14,15,16 National Championship, Scottish Division 3 player of the Year, Scottish Football League Team of the Year two times.

Describe your football and off-field time in Scotland?

Best 3 years of my life!!! Football was fast and furious. To win a championship and play along side my brother was a dream come true. There is no better feeling than winning a title (ok, maybe only one!), but off field antics are best kept secret!!

Most memorable goal you've scored?

Morton 4 Abroath 3. I scored the winner with a half volley just inside the box off a rebound in the 85th minute. I can just hear Craig Elvin saying "bullshit Mais!"

Record number of juggles in single attempt?

Haven't tried to do it for years now, gave up I think.

Steak, chicken parma or seafood?

Chicken Parma any day of the week.

Chips, veggies or salad?

Salad, Joe Biskic is probably reading this.

Pizza or souvlaki? Pizza, barbecue meat lovers or capricciosa.

Favourite drink, non alcoholic and alcoholic?

Coke, and alcoholic would be double bourbon with a dash of coke.

Favourite nightspot?

Had the time of my life in Ayia Napa, Cyprus.

My next holiday destination is... Spanish Islands.
Kitchen whiz or home handyman?

Kitchen whiz. I learnt how to cook by watching my mum. She's the best cook. I burnt the kitchen down in Scotland once. I forgot I had the stove on and went to training. Damage bill set me back for months. I also flooded the house, but it wasn't my fault, the taps came on themselves. The carpet in the bedrooms and living room had to be changed, and I had to apologise to all my neighbours in the flat beneath me, as it was starting to go through.

What's in the CD player right now?

House music and Bon Jovi.

Dream date?

Alyssa Milano.

First Melbourne Knights player you'd invite to a party?

Craig Elvin.

On the end of season trip, the last player to shout drinks will be... The boys seem ok when it comes to that, although I have heard a few stories about one player in particular (no names, sorry!).

Match day superstitions or rituals?

No not really.

Typical matchday meal?

Small chicken breast and pasta about 4 hours before.

Favorite sporting team while growing up?

Boca Juniors.

What are your strengths?

Passing ability, creativity.

What are your weaknesses?

Everything but passing and creativity!

Ten pin bowling or skydiving?

Bowling, although I think I have the guts to skydive.

Toughest opponent?

Played against Ronaldinho once while he was in Sydney for the 2000 Olympic Games. At the Knights, Neven Antic pisses me off because he is so awkward to get past.

Select a player that you play most like?

I wish I had half the ability of Juan Sebastian Veron, although I wouldn't come

close to his left ...!

Which team do you select when playing FIFA soccer on a computer game?

Argentina and Chelsea because they have the best players.

What is the last soccer shirt you bought?

A Boca Juniors strip when I was about 15.

Funniest rumour you have heard about yourself?

That I placed bets on my own team to lose.

Childhood soccer idol?

Diego Armando Maradona.

Favorite former Socceroo?

Paul Okon.

Favourite Current Socceroo?

Ljubo Milicevic.

What song or movie to do you get inspiration from?

No real song, but Men of Honour with Cuba Gooding Junior is an inspirational film.

Do you watch Footballers Wives?

I used to watch it in the UK, not so much for the football, but for the wives.

Most hostile away crowd?

I have been to an old firm classic (Rangers vs Celtic) and they are crazy. I don't know yet in the VPL, but Preston on the weekend was quite eventful.

If I didn't play football I'd play... Tennis.
What fictional character would you most like to be; why?

Would have to say Superman, just for his ability to fly. Leisure Suit Larry (computer game) would be great fun too.

Hollywood is making a movie about your career. Who would you select to play you in a movie?

I would prefer to be the star myself.

Any other bits of Marco Maisano trivia you want us to reveal?

Just want to take this opportunity to thank you and say hi to my girlfriend Helen who would put me in the dog house if she reads this and sees there is no mention of her.

By John Bonacci



Kiss
kissfm.com.au



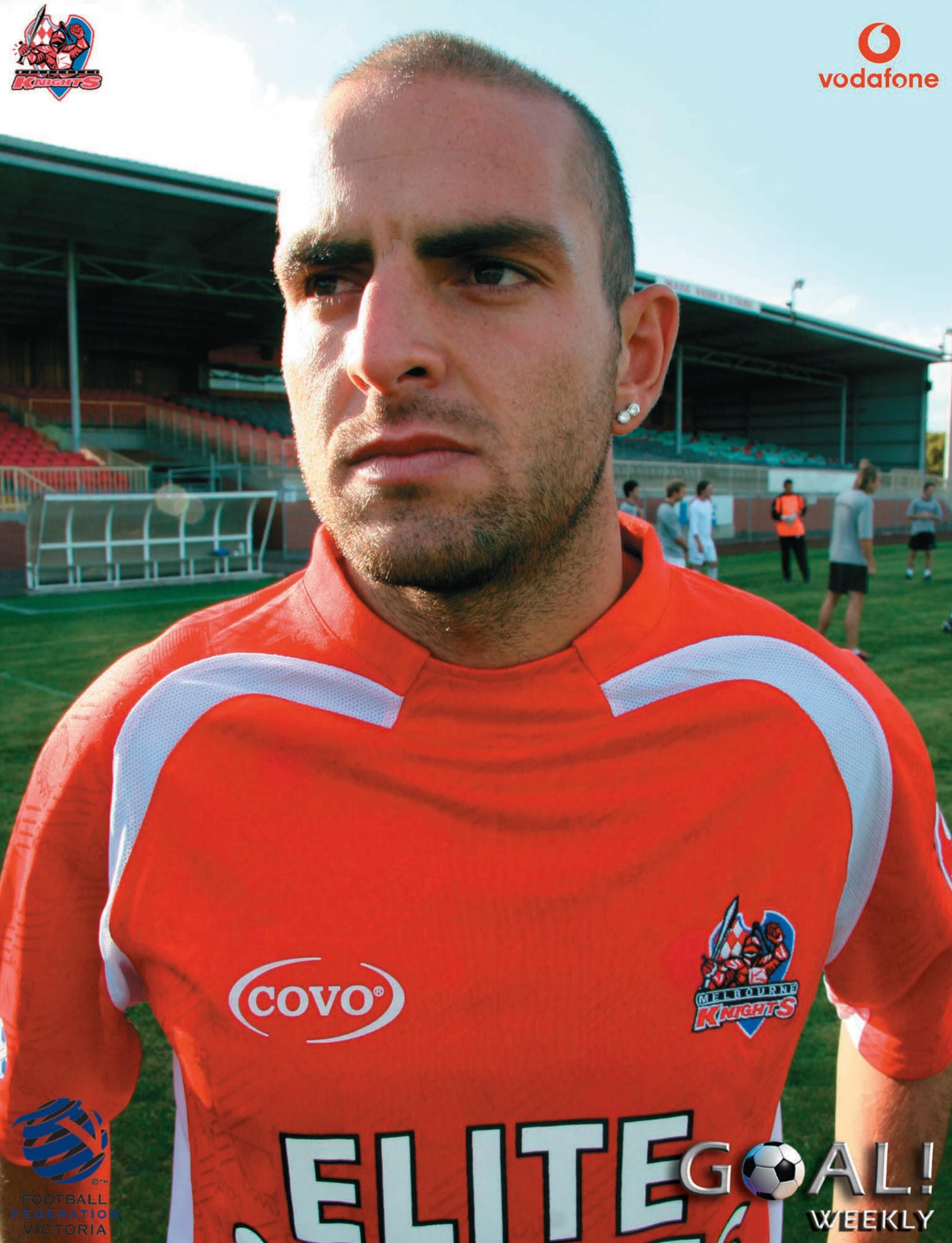
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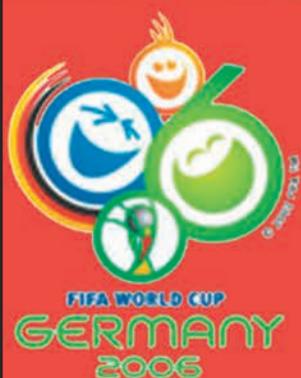
MARCO MAISANO
MELBOURNE KNIGHTS FC





SWITZERLAND

Deutschland Bound



Coach: Koebi Kuhn.

Key players: Alexander Frei, Philippe Senderos.

World Cup record and best finish: Eighth appearance; quarterfinals (1934, 1938, 1954).

Last appearance: Second round 1994.

World Cup odds: 80-1.

How qualified: Beat Turkey in European playoff.

Group G

France v Switzerland: Stuttgart, Tuesday 13th June 2006 KO 6pm

Togo v Switzerland: Dortmund, Monday 19th June 2006 KO 3pm

Switzerland v Korea: Hanover, Friday 23rd June 2006 KO 9pm

*KO in German Summer Time

GOAL!
WEEKLY

FUTSAL PREMIER LEAGUE FINAL

SPRINGVALE TAKES OUT TITLE

WHAT DO THE LIKES OF RICKY DIACO, Tony Neceski, Robert Liparoti and Lupce Acevski have in common? Well, aside from either competing in the old NSL, the new A-League, or Vodafone Cup competitions, they have also played in the Victorian Futsal Premier League since the tournament's inception three years ago.

For Ricky Diaco, the State's premier 'indoor' futsal competition was a platform for forging a successful 'outdoor' football career in the Vodafone Cup. Two seasons of football in Victoria's top flight competition eventually saw Ricky co-win the Gold Medal in 2004 before being poached by the Melbourne Victory in their inaugural A-League campaign.

The above-mentioned footballers that had graced the futsal pitches at Albert Park over the last two years have been replaced with a current array of Vodafone Cup talent – with Izzy Erdogan, Mark Tsiorlas, Eddie Soares, and Trent Waterson all playing in this year's competition. The Futsal Premier League was not only useful for these players to maintain their fitness over the pre-season, but it also assisted in enhancing their skills in this fast version of five-a-side indoor football. In addition to the Vodafone Cup talent, throw in the experience of former NSL and Melbourne Knights great Ivan Kelic, plus one of Australia's greatest ever futsal players in Brimbank's striker Ivan Zilic and the Victorian Futsal Premier League had all the ingredients for another successful season in 2005-2006.

The 2005-2006 Futsal Premier League kicked off for its third season at the Melbourne Sports and Aquatic Centre in mid October 2005. Ten teams from futsal centres across metropolitan Melbourne fielded their best players from their respective centres to see who would be crowned Victoria's premier futsal club over 3 months of competition.

For Brimbank Futsal Club, the dual reigning champions started the competition as favourites, after dominating the competition in its first two years. However, other clubs showed signs that they were beginning to bridge the gap and would provide Brimbank stiff competition this season, in particular Springvale – the competition's runners-up the last two years, plus Airport West, who narrowly lost to Brimbank in last year's finals series.

After nine rounds of competition, Springvale and Airport west proved to be the competition's trendsetters. Springvale went through the season undefeated, finishing minor premiers, whilst Airport West's only blemish was a 5-0 loss to Springvale in round 8.

Brimbank Futsal Club finished third and had an inconsistent season by their standards. The dual champions struggled to field the same starting five throughout the season and lost their games against the teams which occupied the top two spots on the Premier League ladder all season - Airport West and Springvale. The highlight of the competition was Carlton finishing fourth and securing a finals spot for the first time. In the Premier League's inaugural year, Carlton and Airport West occupied the bottom spots on the ladder. Both teams retained a bulk of their squads from their inaugural season and it was great to see that a combination of persistence, individual and team improvement had rewarded Airport West and Carlton finals births.

Despite the injection of new players and talent in most squads this season, the other highlight of the competition was the performances of the competition's so called experienced and 'older' players, who that proved age is definitely no barrier to class! Experienced goalkeepers such as Charlie Ekoutsidis from the Northern Futsal Club and Con Fuska from Richmond consistently made shot stopping saves at crucial moments in their games.

Meanwhile, Ivan Kelic proved ever reliable in defence for Airport West, covering plenty of ground on the pitch and even managed to score 11 goals during the season, including four against Brimbank. Speaking of goals, Ivan Zilic, who just turned 37 last week, keeps getting better and better! The stats speak for themselves – Ivan won both the golden boot and competition's best and fairest for the third year running. Zilic scored 42 goals for Brimbank, including 10 against Brunswick in Round seven. This is

all from a man that does one-thousand (yes 1,000) sit ups per day!

Unfortunately for Ivan, there was one accolade that eluded both him and his Brimbank squad this season – a third successive Vic-



Back row: Fikret Geldikaya, Tome Racunica, Mladen Kustura, Ulcer Mustafa, George Anastasiadis.
Front row: John Maroky (Manager), Stan Karanasios, Kemal Geldikaya, Juan Sastre (Captain) Alexru Sabaut

torian Futsal Premier League title. Airport West defeated Brimbank in their semi final clash and inflicted Brimbank's first ever final's loss in the competition's short history.

In the other semi-final clash, minor premiers Springvale ran over a gallant Carlton after a tight first half. Mladen Kustura and Fikret Geldikaya looked impressive for Springvale as they waltzed into their third consecutive grand final.

Although Springvale defeated Airport West 5-0 in round 8, the grand final was a completely different ball game. Both teams started nervously as Springvale looked to erase the memory of two grand final defeats, whilst Airport West struggled to maintain possession in the early phases. Springvale broke the deadlock in the 7 minute of the first half, courtesy of a Fikret Geldikaya free kick which deflected off the wall just outside Airport West's penalty area. Ivan Kelic responded 5 minutes later for Airport West with a run along the right flank and finished with a strike from a narrow angle near the right corner. It was Springvale however that took the lead into the half time break courtesy of a Geldikaya cross which found Tome Racunica two metres from goal.

After a tight first half, Springvale began to take the ascendancy and prove to all why they went through the season undefeated. Defender Mladen Kustura rocketed two powerful strikes off his right foot near the halfway line. Springvale, otherwise known as the 'Water Rats' were finally beginning to shake the grand final hoodoo that had taunted them the last two years. Springvale ran away 6-2 winners and deservedly crowned Victorian futsal champions for 2005-2006. For established Springvale players such as Juan Sastre and George Anastasiadis, the win came as a relief for them individually and as a team. Sastre, Springvale's captain acknowledged that their destiny had finally come after two years of anguish and warned competing clubs that they will not relinquish the championship without a fight!

Victorian Futsal Association Chairman Paul Galea congratulated Springvale on their victory and handed over the winning cheque for \$3,000. Galea stated "we strive not only to be Victoria's elitist futsal competition, but Australia's too. We are hoping to increase next year's winner's prize money to \$20,000 as an incentive to attract the best futsal and football talent across Australia."

By Simon McCuskey



Brimbank captain ivan zilic collects the golden boot and best and fairest award from channel 31's victorian football show host ross alatsas

SEASON SNAPSHOT

Best and Fairest: Ivan Zilic (Brimbank F.C)

Golden Boot: Ivan Zilic (42 goals)

My all-star starting 5 – Charlie Ekoutsidis (Northern F.C), David Carrick (Richmond), Ivan Kelic (Airport West), Ivan Zilic (Brimbank), Stan Karanasios (Springvale). Subs: Santo Romano (Carlton), Rodrigo Evangelisti (Richmond), Fikret Geldikaya (Springvale)

Rising Stars: John Barrientos (Northern), Miguel Barrigos (Brimbank)

Team to watch next season: Richmond

GOAL! ...THE VERDICT

WHAT HE SAW...

In a nutshell this was a film based on a Mexican immigrant's dream of playing football at the highest level with a top European soccer club. The protagonist was played by Kuno Becker who rose through economic hardship and found success playing football at the highest level.

Before the movie started most of the people who were waiting to see it probably would have thought this would be the same old cliché football film but to our surprise it turned out to be a quality production. I guess some similar elements were there but then again who doesn't like the idea that your average football star began playing in the streets of Rio.

The lead role was played by a Hispanic star Kuno Becker, who to his credit, played the role with much polish. He was well supported by popular British actress Anna Friel whose previous films have included a comedy for CBS TV perfect strangers. To British viewers Mrs Friel would be better known for her role as the feisty Beth Jordache in

the popular soap opera Brookside in which she won the coveted National television awards for best actress.

The film was made with the help of English Premier League club Newcastle United, which gave permission for the filmmakers to use shots of the club at its training ground. The real footage was good to see and gave the viewer incite into the inner runnings of a top flight club.

Towards the end of the film you could see the influence of Ian La Frenais and Dick Clement as their screen play really shone through with shots of Newcastle really giving us a true sense of being there through the screen. These two born and bread Newcastle boys really know their stuff when it comes to the city of Newcastle.

All in all an entertaining movie that I recommend everyone to see.

By Paul Jeffries



Goal! girls Eve Gunson (left) and Dianna Crouch obviously know when they're onto a winner

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Issue #3

WHAT SHE SAW...

As one of the lucky winners of Goal Weekly's competition to attend the premiere of the new movie, Goal! I can say I really enjoyed it.

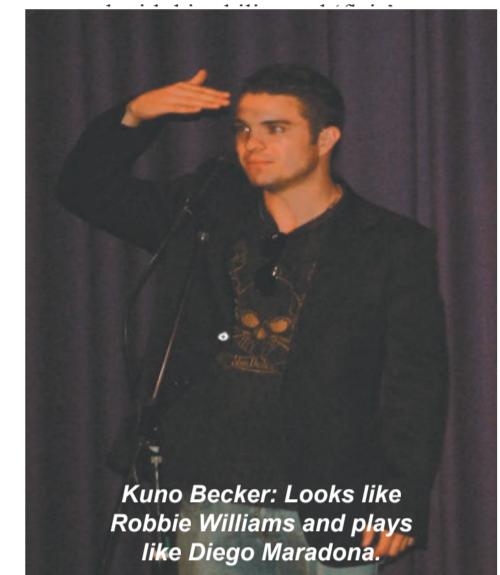
For someone like me, whose knowledge about soccer (sorry football) is little more than, it is the 'beautiful game' and played by David Beckham, Thierry Henry and George Best, it was a good film.

The film is about a young man, Santiago Munez, who has grown up in Los Angeles after illegally coming to the America with his family from Mexico. He arrives in America as a child, with a soccer ball and a picture of the World Cup and dreams of a day when he can make soccer his 'life.'

Unfortunately, his father doesn't share his dream, and after Santiago's mother walks out on the family Santiago is expected to work with his father mowing lawns and cleaning pools to support the family and save for their own business.

Santiago continues to practice and play soccer every chance he gets and develops the skills and techniques to take the ball down the field, passing and dodging defenders and kicking goals, making him the star of his local team. But he is still an illegal immigrant without a green card, and can't get a scholarship to an American College or play professionally.

That all changes when an ex-scout from Newcastle United spots him playing and im-



Kuno Becker: Looks like Robbie Williams and plays like Diego Maradona.

English captain, 'someone' Shearer and even that Manager, Sven 'what's his name,' a strong cast and scenes filmed at Newcastle's training grounds, is worth seeing.

Also, it has to be said, the actor who plays Santiago looks at times like Robbie Williams and some of his, (or his stunt double's) footwork is magic. Goal! is one of those inspirational films, where the main character overcomes obstacles and adversity to triumph in the game he loves. There is something in it for everyone, male or female and I think even true football fans will enjoy it. I'll give it 3 1/2 stars out of 5.

By Tabatha Lovett

WHAT THE ED. SAW...

I too attended the premiere screening of the movie Goal!

I must admit I'm a bit of a sceptic when it comes to football feature films, especially these days when so many are trying to cash in on the wave of popularity the code is experiencing at the moment.

Freud would probably tell you I wasn't too thrilled the movie shared the same name of this publication too...exclamation mark and all!

Anyway, I thought I'd watch with an open mind and let the film take its course.

Surprisingly, I actually started to warm to the flick...right up until the time the film's climatic final match was against Liverpool; the team I've supported since I was a boy.

The hero of the movie managed to dribble through half my team...and that's where it

really lost me. I thought to myself, "What a load of bullocks! Gerrard would have taken out that nancy actor about five tackles ago and sent him flying into the terraces".

Unfortunately, we didn't get to see the complete ending either. I'm guessing the projectionist was out back probably having a fag, when the film reel suddenly came to an abrupt halt and the cinema lights came on.

I suppose I'll never find out if the star of the flick managed to get the girl at the end either...but I'm pretty sure we can guess how that one turned out.

My verdict? Stick to Goal! Weekly kids. At least you know, the matches we cover have real endings with different outcomes from week to week.

You only get one "take" on the real field of dreams.

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WORLD FOOTBALL WEEKEND RESULTS

ARGENTINA CLAUSURA

River Plate - Gimnasia J 2 - 0
 Gimnasia LP - Arsenal Sarandi 0 - 0
 Arg. Juniors - Independiente 2 - 1
 San Lorenzo - Olimpo 2 - 0

Team	T	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pt
1 Independiente	4	2	1	1	7	2	7
2 Estudiantes LP	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
3 Colon	3	2	1	0	4	2	7
4 River Plate	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
5 Boca Juniors	3	2	0	1	6	3	6
6 Newells	3	2	0	1	8	3	6
7 Banfield	3	2	0	1	6	4	6
8 Arg. Juniors	4	1	3	0	5	4	6
9 Gimnasia J	3	2	0	1	3	3	6
10 Velez	3	1	2	0	3	2	5
11 Arsenal Sarandi	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
12 San Lorenzo	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
13 Olascoaga	4	1	1	2	3	4	4
14 Lanus	3	1	1	1	2	4	4
15 Quilmes	3	1	0	2	3	4	3
16 Tiro Federal	3	1	0	2	3	5	3
17 Gimnasia LP	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
18 Rosario	3	0	1	2	1	3	1
19 Racing	3	0	1	2	2	6	1
20 Instituto	3	0	0	3	1	11	0

CHILEAN LEAGUE

Huachipato - A. Italiano 1 - 3
 Palestino - Coquimbo 3 - 1
 U. Catolica - U. Espanola 2 - 1

Team	T	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pt
1 A. Italiano	3	3	0	0	9	1	9
2 Cobresal	3	2	1	0	8	4	7
3 Palestino	3	2	0	1	7	4	6
4 Huachipato	3	2	0	1	5	3	6
5 U. de Chile	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
6 U. Concepcion	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
7 S. Morning	3	1	1	1	5	5	4
8 U. Catolica	3	1	1	1	3	3	4
9 Antofagasta	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
10 Colo Colo	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
11 Everton CD	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
12 La Serena	1	0	1	0	1	1	1
13 Cobreal	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
14 O'Higgins	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
15 Puerto Montt	2	0	1	1	1	4	1
16 Wanderers	2	0	1	1	0	3	1
17 Coquimbo	3	0	1	2	3	7	1
18 D. Concepcion	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
19 Rangers Talca	2	0	0	2	4	6	0
20 U. Espanola	2	0	0	2	1	3	0

ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIP

Brighton - Leicester 1 - 2
 Cardiff - Stoke 3 - 0
 Derby - Leeds 0 - 0
 Hull - Norwich 1 - 1
 Ipswich - Burnley 2 - 1
 Plymouth - Sheffield U - 0
 Preston - Luton 5 - 1
 Queens PR - Millwall 1 - 0
 Sheffield W - Crystal Palace 0 - 0
 Watford - Coventry 4 - 0
 Wolverhampton - Crewe 1 - 1

Team	T	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pt
1 Reading	33	25	7	1	72	19	82
2 Sheffield U	33	21	7	5	59	32	70
3 Watford	33	17	10	6	61	38	61
4 Leeds	32	17	8	7	44	25	59
5 Preston	32	13	15	4	44	23	54
6 Crystal Palace	32	15	8	9	45	31	53
7 Cardiff	33	13	9	11	45	38	48
8 Wolverhampton	32	10	14	8	35	28	44
9 Luton	33	13	5	15	48	49	44
10 Ipswich	33	11	11	11	38	46	44
11 Burnley	33	12	7	14	41	42	43
12 Queens PR	33	11	8	13	37	46	42
13 Coventry	33	10	11	12	44	49	41
14 Norwich	33	11	7	15	37	47	40
15 Plymouth	32	9	12	11	29	37	39
16 Stoke	32	12	3	17	36	47	39
17 Hull	33	9	10	14	38	41	37
18 Southampton	33	7	15	11	30	36	36
19 Leicester	33	8	11	14	38	43	35
20 Derby	33	6	16	11	40	48	34
21 Sheffield W	33	8	10	15	25	39	34
22 Brighton	33	5	14	14	31	51	29
23 Millwall	33	6	12	16	23	45	27
24 Crewe	33	4	11	18	38	72	23

ITALIAN SERIE A

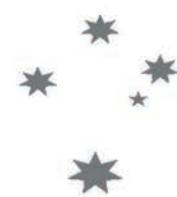
Treviso - Chievo 1 - 2
 Lazio - Udinese 1 - 1

Team	T	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pt
1 Juventus	24	20	3	1	49	14	63
2 Inter Milan	24	17	3	4	47	18	54
3 Milan	24	16	3	5	53	23	51
4 Fiorentina	24	15	5	4	41	23	50
5 Roma	24	13	6	5	46	25	45
6 Lazio	24	10	9	5	28	25	39
7 Chievo	25	10	8	7	33	28	38
8 Lazio	25	8	11	8	31	30	35
9 Sampdoria	24	9	7	8	37	31	34
10 Palermo	24	7	9	8	35	38	30
11 Udinese	25	7	8	12	25	38	27
12 Siena	24	6	8	10	28	38	26
13 Reggina	24	7	5	12	25	39	26
14 Ascoli	24	5	10	9	24	30	25
15 Messina	24	4	11	9	21	31	23
16 Cagliari	24	5	7	12	27	38	22
17 Parma	24	5	7	12	43	43	22
18 Empoli	24	6	4	14	27	44	22
19 Treviso	25	2	8	15	15	38	14
20 Lecce	24	3	4	17	16	41	13

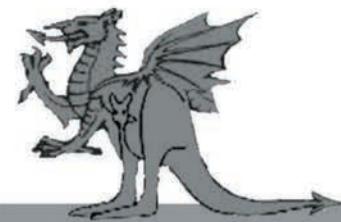
ENGLISH PREMIERSHIP

Arsenal - Bolton 1 - 1
 Aston Villa - Newcastle 1 - 2
 Everton - Blackburn 1 - 0
 Fulham - West Bromwich 6 - 1
 Middlesbrough - Chelsea 3 - 0
 Portsmouth - Manchester U 1 - 3
 Wigan - Liverpool 0 - 1

Team	T	W	D	L	Gf	Ga	Pt
1 Chelsea	26	21	3	2	52	16	96
2 Manchester U	28	16	8	4	62	27	54
3 Liverpool	25	14	6	5	31	17	48
4 Tottenham	25	12	8	5	34	21	44
5 Arsenal	25	12	5	8	39	20	41
6 Bolton	24	10	8	5	30	23	38
7 Wigan	28	12	3	11	30	32	38
8 West Ham	25	11	6	9	36	34	38
9 Blackburn							



succeroo a pom's home view



With Graeme Souness finally being axed from Newcastle United and the England Manager announcing that he will depart after the World Cup, it appears that the Toon Army and English FA are chasing the same man.

Newcastle need to appoint a new manager by April. The present care-taking combo of Alan Shearer and Paul Roeder say that they do not want, nor do they have the credentials, to continue on a permanent basis. While the English FA aim to appoint Sven's successor before the World Cup, the job will not be vacant until after the quarter-finals of the World Cup... or at least until England have been knocked out.

So who will it be? The Bolton manager Sam Allardyce has been hotly tipped for both positions. Big Sam has been at Bolton for six years and has done a magnificent job on a 'shoe-string' budget, transforming a 'yo-yo' Championship side into a European cup side.

Sam's best credential remains that he is English. While Bolton have performed beyond expectation, football is essentially about winning trophies, and like many of his fellow English contemporaries; compared to the heavyweights of Fergusson, Mourinho and Wenger, Sam has actually done very little as a club manager to merit a high-pro-



file job. Therefore, maybe he is more suitable to taking the next level at club football, managing Newcastle, before tackling the England hot-seat.

However, the Newcastle chairman Freddie Sheppard, has learnt by his previous disas-

trous appointments. Thus, the next manager has to be fully accepted by the colossal,

loyal Geordie fan base, who have already expressed their preference for Martin O'Neil.

Martin O'Neil may not be English but he is British. He learnt his trade under the legendary Brian Clough and has been a highly successful manager with Leicester City and Celtic. He left the Scottish champions last season to care for his ill wife and has stated that he will not return to management until she has recovered. Martin can afford to wait as the English F.A. officials favour him for the top England spot.

Unfortunately for all Australians, Sven has already hinted at his new successor. There is no secret to how exceptionally well Guus Hiddink has performed in two World Cups as well as the Champions League with PSV Eindhoven. He has committed himself to Australia until the end of the World Cup and may find the offer of plying his trade in England too good to refuse.

The last entry to show interest in both jobs is Luiz Felipe Scolari. The Brazilian is already familiar with the England national team as he engineered their downfall at the 2002 World Cup with Brazil and then in Euro 2004 with Portugal. He is also due to leave his job as Portugal manager after this year's World Cup.

By Richard Sucksmith

WORLD FOOTBALL WRAP

UDINESE SACK COSMI

The short reign of Serse Cosmi at Udinese has come to an end, with the club declaring they have parted ways with their charismatic tactician. The manager has been under enormous pressure to retain his job following some disappointing results over the last few months and Wednesday night's loss to Reggina convinced President Giampaolo Pozzo that the time was right to make a change. Veteran defender Nestor Sensini, 39, has brought forward his retirement from the game and will act as a caretaker boss until the summer. Cosmi has been handed a compensation package for the remaining 18-months of his contract.

TRAPATTONI SACKED

Bundesliga outfit Stuttgart have dismissed manager Giovanni Trapattoni, after the Italian coach failed to help his side reach the club's expectations.

The club brought the former Italy manager to make Stuttgart a title contender, but domestic glory hopes quickly faded away as Stuttgart failed to clinch more than 5 wins in 27 games.

Tipped for an early Gottlieb-Daimler-Stadion exit as the winter break started, Trapattoni had however remained at the helm of the German side, but a narrow 0-1 home defeat against Duisburg, followed by two goalless draws against Cologne and Bremen failed to impress the club board once again.

VfB president Erwin Staudt confirmed last night Stuttgart and Giovanni Trapattoni had officially parted company. Stuttgart have officially named former boss Hansa Rostock boss Armin Veh as their new manager, in the wake of Giovanni Trapattoni's dismissal.

Middlesbrough - Chelsea 3-0

Fabio Rochemback stunned Chelsea less than two minutes into the proceedings at the Riverside, going back and forth with Yakubu before rounding John Terry and firing home.

Just before the interval, the Teessiders were two up as Stewart Downing fired low into Petr Cech's net, and Yakubu made it 3-0 after racing past two defenders and firing home past Cech.

Arsenal - Bolton Wanderers 1-1

A late equalizer from midfielder Gilberto spared an undemanded Arsenal side their second straight home defeat on Saturday. Kevin Nolan put the Trotters in front on 12 minutes with a beautiful chip of goalkeeper Jens Lehmann, and the Gunners had more problems later in the first half when Abdoulaye Faye's challenge ended the day for José Antonio Reyes.

Arsenal looked resigned to defeat despite many good second-half chances, but in the 90th minute Gilberto finally was able to put away a cross by Cesc Fabregas to level and the Gunners nearly won it late on, but an effort by Thierry Henry was cleared off the line by Ricardo Gardner.

Portsmouth - Manchester United 1-3

Cristiano Ronaldo scored twice as Manchester United closed the gap on beaten Chelsea to 12 points with a win at relegation-threatened Pompey.

Dutch striker Ruud van Nistelrooy opened the scoring in the 18th minute with a header and Ronaldo doubled the lead 20 minutes later with a rifle shot past goalkeeper Dean Kiely.

The Portuguese winger had United up

three at the break when he took a ball from Wayne Rooney before firing into the net. Pompey got a consolation in the 87th minute from Matthew Taylor.

Wigan Athletic - Liverpool 0-1

An unlikely source proved to be the hero for Liverpool on Saturday as Sami Hyypia's goal lifted them to victory at Wigan. Right on the half-hour mark, the Finn got on the end of a long ball from Jamie Carragher and mishit his shot, but it was enough to get it beyond goalkeeper Mike Pollitt for a 1-0 lead.

Fulham - West Bromwich Albion 6-1

Fulham went wild on Saturday producing their best performance of the year against a sorry West Brom side at Craven Cottage. Heidar Helguson opened the scoring for Fulham just four minutes in off Brian McBride's flick, and he doubled the lead five minutes from half-time with a leaping header off Simon Elliott's free kick. Tomasz Radzinski made it 3-0 in the 48th minute and an own goal by Curtis Davies ten minutes later further extended the advantage.

Collins John hit five for Fulham in the 83rd minute before Kevin Campbell got a goal back only to see John score again at the death.

Aston Villa - Newcastle United 1-2

Newcastle caretaker manager Glenn Roeder has two wins in two matches after his ten-man Magpies defeated Aston Villa on Saturday.

Shola Ameobi fired the visitors in front less than two minutes in, beating Thomas Sørensen after being set up by Alan Shear-

er, but red-hot Luke Moore's equalizer for Villa in the 16th minute pegged the visitors back.

Newcastle went unphased, however, and Charles N'Zogbia regained the lead on the half-hour as he put in the rebound from Nolberto Solano's saved shot.

Celestine Babayaro was sent off on the hour mark for a foul in the area on Milan Baros, but the Czech striker failed to equalize from the resultant spot kick, hitting a weak effort that Shay Given saved easily.

Everton - Blackburn Rovers 1-0

Ten-man Everton extended their run in the Premiership to seven matches without defeat after their home victory over Blackburn Rovers.

Everton goalkeeper Ian Turner was dismissed just nine minutes into the match after handling outside the area, but it was the Toffees who went in front in the 33rd minute as James Beattie headed home a Mikel Arteta free kick.



Middlesbrough coach Steve McLaren has been earmarked for the England job

YESTERDAY'S HEROES..... JIMMY CAMPBELL



This week's "Yesterday Hero" is Jimmy Campbell. A composed midfielder in his day who pulled the strings in the centre of the park for the legendary Heidelberg United side of the eighties and later on the Melbourne Knights.

To cap off a fine career and indicative of the strength of Victorian football at that time, Jimmy was selected to represent Australia along with seven of his "Berger team-mates.

In 1980 Jimmy was an instrumental member of the Heidelberg team which broke Sydney's stranglehold on the NSL competition to become the first Victorian club to capture National League silverware.

In what was probably The 'Bergers' finest hour, it trounced hot favourite and Minor Champion of the time, Sydney City, by a whopping 4-0 in a memorable Grand Final played at Bruce Stadium in Canberra.

Goal! Weekly recently caught up with Jimmy at the Nike offices in Abbotsford and here's how it went.

When did you first come to Australia?

I actually arrived here in March 1977 for the first year of what was then known as the Philips National Soccer League.

How did that come about?

A guy called Jimmy Adams contacted me in England. I thought he was joking when he offered me a place in this new league that was coming up.

He was scouting around England at the time and a got in touch with a few of us....Arthur McMillan, Kenny Taylor, Bobby Proven, Jimmy McWarren...I'm not too sure how many he contacted but I was one of those.

I didn't agree first of all because I thought I wasn't ready, but some six months time down the track he contacted me in the middle of the night and said he had a team for me called "Fitzroy-Alexander", and asked if I wanted to come. He must have caught me half asleep

because I ended up saying "yes". I thought I'd come over for six months and see how we'd go...I've been here ever since.

Any regrets?

No, it's probably been the best move I've ever made and I've loved every minute of it.

Who did you play for in the UK?

I started my career when I was sixteen at Bedford Town, which was a non league team in the Southern Division. I was then bought for 5000 pounds by Oxford United who were then in the Second Division. I went across when I was seventeen and signed as a full-time professional because I was too old to be an apprentice. It was good and I was there for nearly three years.

Was Ron Atkinson coaching there at the time?

No, he did play there but was now just starting out as a manager with Kettering Town. We would see him quite a lot though because his brother, Graham, still played at Oxford and Ron would always come over and have a coffee with us in the coffee shop. He was a nice guy and full of charisma.

Was he popping open bottles of champagne while you were on the coffee?

No, no...(laughs)...He was on the coffees at that time of the morning.

So what happened after that?

Well, I wasn't good enough, as they say, and I got a free transfer to Chelmsford Town.

I was only there a short stint before heading back to Bedford and then suddenly, I was lucky enough to get picked up and brought out to Australia. It actually happened pretty quickly.

Apart from Fitzroy (Heidelberg), who else did you play for in Australia?

I was at Heidelberg for about seven years before moving onto Melbourne Knights for about \$25,000 for about four years. From there I went to Croydon and then Albion, Mooroolbark, Nunawading and Ringwood. I'm now at Collingwood City over 35's.

What was the highlight of your career?

Overall, it would probably have to be playing for Australia...that and also winning the 1980 Grand Final with Heidelberg.

How big an honour was it to play for Australia?

It was an absolutely huge honour. I would have to say when I arrived here it became something of a goal.... and I'm happy to say that I managed to achieve that. Obviously I would've liked to have played more games and I think I ended up playing nine games... even though they've got me down as eight (laughs)...and I did manage to get a goal.

Tell us about your goal?

It was against Singapore in the final of the '83 Merlion Cup, which I think these days is the Asian Cup. We won the final 4-2 and I scored the third goal after coming on as sub.

How fond are the memories of Heidelberg?

It was a really big moment with the teammates....we are still very good friends today. We had such a great team and I always believed we were a really good side..we had eight international players who came from there...guys like Jamie Paton, Gary Cole, legend Jimmy Rooney, Yakka Banovic in goal, John Yzendoorn, Andy Bozikis and Theo Selemidis, who seemed to have been around for ever.

It was just amazing how all of us played in the same Socceroo squad and played together for about six or seven years at Heidelberg. It was a great time and the beauty of it is we're all still good mates today.

Who would have been the best player you played with?

I suppose Jimmy Rooney. I learnt a lot off Jimmy and he was always willing to give help, especially during my Heidelberg days. He was a highlight to play with and really taught me a lot.

Best player played against?

I've got Franz Beckenbauer's shirt framed back at my house. Being on the same park as him is something that I can say was a fantastic day in my life. I played against him when the New York Cosmos played against Victoria at Olympic Park. I'd like to think he's got my shirt up on his wall back at his place too (laughs). I might have to phone him up and see if he can score me tickets for the World Cup!

You managed to score a few goals as a midfielder. Any that stand out?

The one for Australia sticks in the memory. I scored some good goals, some lucky ones and ones that came off my ass. I don't care really...I love 'em all! I don't care how they go in, as long as they go in.

Did you ever give coaching a go?

I coached at Albion for about three months before getting the sack. I suppose I probably wasn't ready for it at the time, but after that I decided it wasn't worth the effort or the time.

It just didn't work out for me and I guess I probably wasn't built to be a coach.

Any advice to youngsters?

You really have to be committed, dedicated and practice. It's hard work and you really have to have you're mind right to do all that. Believe in you own ability and keep at it. Try not to let the fun go out of the game ...you've really got to enjoy it as well. If it becomes too hard and you're not enjoying it, then you shouldn't be doing it.

It takes a special breed to be able to go to foreign countries on your own and stick it out to do it. It's a rat race over there, really competitive.... but guys like Viduka and Kewell have shown, that if you're dedicated and you believe in yourself then you can do it.

Who was the biggest influence on you career?

Going back to the early days, it would have been my father, who pushed me and got me going. He died when I was pretty young, but then my mother let me do it the way I wanted to do it.

Later on it was probably Brian Garvey, who gave me my first chance as a sixteen year old at Bedford Town. As well as him there was John Margaritis and Len Mckendry. I remember in 1980 when John came to Heidelberg we lost our second game 8-1 to Marconi...before he turned things around, made a huge difference and went on to win the whole thing.

Was this the same Brian Garvey who coached in Australia?

Yeah, he actually came to Heidelberg before I moved on to the Melbourne Knights.

What are you doing with yourself outside of football these days?

I'm now working for Nike as a National Team Sports Sales Manager. I've been here for ten years and before that I was with Adidas for sixteen years. I really enjoy the fact it allows me the opportunity to be involved with the



soccer side of things at a national level and now we're just getting into the grass-roots side of football as well.

Apart from that, I'm still enjoying getting out there and kicking the ball around for Collingwood City on the weekends...with your Gary Cole's and mate's like Arthur Georgiou.

Thanks Jimmy...for the goals, the memories and for spending some time with Goal! Weekly.

NATIONAL NEWS

AUSTRALIA TO MEET GREECE IN MELBOURNE



Greece celebrating their monumental victory at the 2004 Euro Championships

Victorian Premier Steve Bracks and Football Federation Australia Chairman Mr Frank Lowy AC, today announced that Victoria, through the Victorian Major Events Company, had secured a package of world class football events over the next four years, including the

eagerly awaited match between Australia and Greece.

Mr Bracks said the full World Cup Qantas Socceroos squad would play Greece on Thursday 25 May at the MCG before they headed to Germany for the 2006 FIFA World Cup in June.

The agreement between FFA and VMEC sees an annual Qantas Socceroo match in Melbourne for the next four years plus investment in the community through the forming of a joint government and football working committee.

"This package further cements Melbourne's reputation as the sporting capital of Australia and the World's event city," Mr Bracks said.

"Melbourne will see some of the most significant football matches in Australia every year for the next four years."

"Football is now a mainstream sport in Australia and the Socceroos World Cup send-off game against Greece, will attract huge interest and large numbers of interstate visitors."

"It will be the European Champion, Greece's first appearance in Australia since 1978 and is sure to ignite the passion of the huge Greek community here in Victoria."

Chairman of Football Federation Australia, Mr Frank Lowy AC said Australia's 2006 FIFA World Cup campaign will start in Melbourne.

"The full strength squad we are taking to Germany will play against Greece. We're bringing the highest quality football to Victoria," Mr Lowy said.

"As reigning European Champions Greece are a formidable opposition and will provide the ideal start for Australia's World Cup assault."

The four year package includes:

- 2006 – Powerade Cup match between Australia and Greece on Thursday 25 May at the MCG
- 2007 - Powerade Cup match between the Qantas Socceroos and one of the world's best football nations
- 2008 - FIFA World Cup Qualifier - Australia's first World Cup match since its membership of the Asian Football Confederation
- 2009 - FIFA World Cup Qualifier that could possibly decide if Australia qualifies for the 2010 FIFA World Cup Finals in South Africa.

"The package provides a great opportunity to raise Victoria's international profile and generate enormous economic activity," Mr Bracks said.

Chairman of the Victorian Major Events

Company, Sir Rod Eddington, said the MCG game would be the only match the Qantas Socceroos would play in Australia before the World Cup.

"VMEC won the package for Melbourne after tough negotiations," he said.

"With the Volvo Ocean Race, World Surf Lifesaving Championships, the Commonwealth Games, the Australian Grand Prix and now Australia versus Greece game – There is no better place to be right now than in Melbourne."

He said the matches in 2008 and 2009 would generate significant tourism and broadcast opportunities into important tourist markets for Victoria such as Japan, China, India and Korea.

Coca-Cola Australia Managing Director Mr Gareth Edgecombe said they were proud to give Australians the chance to wish the team all the best in Germany through the Powerade Cup.

"Powerade and Coca-Cola are proud sponsors of both the FIFA World Cup and the FFA and Socceroos, so it's only fitting then that this World Cup preparation match takes place as the Powerade Cup," he said.

The four year agreement also includes a significant component of development funding that will assist with the grass-roots development of football and increase the participation of the sport in Victoria.

PARKS DESTINED FOR HEARTS

Australian Under-17 midfielder Matthew Park was due to arrive in Edinburgh this morning to complete his transfer to Hearts from the Australian club Frankston Strikers.

The teenager endured an exhausting 24-hour flight from Melbourne yesterday to realise his footballing ambition of playing in Europe, and is expected to formally sign on at Tynecastle in the coming days.

Park can operate on the left side of midfield or defence and will initially go into the Hearts youth team.



Pines player Matthew Parks will try out his luck in Scotland

permanent place in the national team for the remaining Asian Cup matches in the second half of the year.

Arnold and Neeskens attended three Hyundai A-League matches on the weekend, and have spent countless hours viewing footage of earlier games, as well as performances of European-based players.



Qld Roar striker Alex Brosque will have his chance to shine against Bahrain

"I am thrilled that we have such a strong team, even without some of the boys who are tied up with European commitments," said Arnold.

"Several of these players have been very close to earlier selection and now their time has come, and with Guus having made it clear that the team for the World Cup in Germany is in no way settled and sealed off, we are setting the scene for a very competitive selection for June, if players

AUSTRALIA V BAHRAIN, 22 FEB 2006

SQUAD:

Michael Beauchamp (Central Coast Mariners, Australia), Alex Brosque (Queensland Roar, Australia), David Carney (Sydney FC, Australia), Alvin Ceccoli (Sydney FC, Australia), Ante Covic (Hammarby, Sweden), Spase Dilevski (Queensland Roar, Australia), Ahmad Elrich (Fulham, England), Brett Holman (Excelsior, Holland), Jon McKain (Timisoara Politehnica, Romania), Scott McDonald (Motherwell, Scotland), Jade North (Newcastle Jets, Australia), Michael Petkovic (Sivasspor, Turkey), Josip Skoko (Stoke, England), Michael Thwaite (FC National, Romania), Michael Valkanis (Adelaide United, Australia), Tony Vidmar (NAC Breda, Holland), Nick Ward (Perth Glory, Australia), Luke Wilshire (Bristol City, England)

Katsa's Corner

With George Katsamboukas



Another busy week attending various matches.

Premier League finally kicked off on Friday night with newcomers Kingston taking on George Cross. The game was not without its controversies though

Michael Turnbull, Kingston's new keeper who replaced Jim Kourtis (strange how my whispers always come true), arrived at the ground at the 11th hour.

Both sets of players had come out onto the pitch; National Anthem was played still no appearance on the park by Turnbull. He did finally arrive and met his team mates for the first time, quick hand shake to them all and game commenced.

Apparently he had just flown in from Sydney.

For any future Players from NSW, and I am told that there will be more, who are flying

in at the last minute to play for Kingston, grab a chopper from

Tullamarine to Moorabbin Airport, much quicker!



Kingston keeper Michael Turnbull held up proceedings against Sunshine last week

The rivalry between Oakleigh Canons and

Kingston City over the years has been quite intense; however, it has certainly intensified over the past four months.

The round four clash between these two teams at Jack Edwards Reserve promises to be a block buster, I hope that the game lives up to the hype that has been going around!

I ventured to Green Gully on Sunday for the Cavaliers game against the Oakleigh Canons.

Gully has some terrific facilities and they are currently extending their social areas.

The Canons have never had much luck at Gully; Esala Masi certainly changed that when he came on as a substitute, giving Oakleigh the Victory.

South Melbourne's Kevin Nelson was not allowed to take part in the South Melbourne/Heidelberg Derby.

My sources tell me that a leading FFV official visited the South Dressing rooms half an hour before kick off and advised the South Officials that if Nelson played, they would be stripped of the points.

Apparently his transfer papers were not completed in time, the South officials claiming that they had faxed all the necessary paperwork to the FFV.

The Million dollar question was when were the papers faxed, word around the street is that they were faxed on the weekend, or late on the Friday Night.

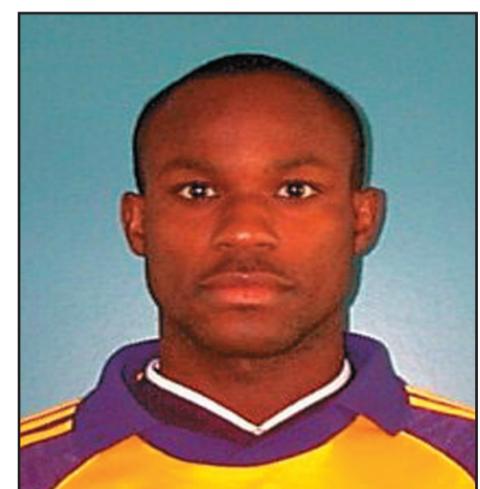
Gentlemen, if this is the case, there would have been no one at the FFV offices to greet them on the weekend!

Speaking of the FFV, they have introduced a great initiative in the FFV Season pass.

Terrific value, for only \$200, you will gain entry to all FFV matches, with \$100 of

that going back to the Club of your choice. Many good things happening at the FFV at the moment, my ex team mate

Tony Pignata who is the CEO, is not only accessible to everybody, but actually takes feedback on board and acts on it where appropriate.



Paperwork kept Trinidad and Tobago recruit Kevin Nelson off the pitch last week

State League and Provisional League teams are gearing up in earnest for 2006.

There are many names being bandied around as transfer targets, however the many club officials that I have spoken to so as to obtain the names of their new recruits are certainly keeping their cards close to their chests, and not releasing any names to me!

I will ferret these out though over the coming weeks!

Katsa over and out – for now!

KRNCVJE'S KRUNCHLINES

Victorian soccer legend Eddie Krncevic represented Australia 35 times and scored 17 goals. He played professionally in Europe for Dinamo Zagreb (Croatia), MSV Duisberg (Germany), Mulhouse (France) and Anderlecht, FC Liege, Aalst and Charleroi in Belgium. Eddie writes for Goal! Weekly every fortnight.



Greetings football fans and welcome to another dose of Krncevic's Krunchlines.

Vodafone Cup

First of all I'd like to begin by saying how great it is to have the local football season up and running again. I've managed to catch a few games over the past week and from what I've seen so far, the promise of an absorbing championship race holds true. I actually ventured to the Heidelberg v South game last weekend and I must admit I was expecting to share the experience with a lot more people. Disappointingly, just over 4,000 fans turned up for what should be one of the showpiece matches of the season.

The same fixture last year was attended by close to 12,000 and actually set a VPL atten-

dance record. I can't help but wonder why the numbers have dropped so dramatically in the space of twelve months. Is it anything to do with the kick-off times or has the novelty just worn off on some people after just one season?

A-League

As we all know the Melbourne Victory's inaugural A-league campaign came to a disappointing close last weekend. A pity really that one of the best supported teams in the competition couldn't repay its huge following of fans with a dose of finals football.

Apparently, preparations for next season have already begun in earnest and moves have been made to bolster the squad with recruits from South America. I've always

felt that would be the most sensible way to go. In my opinion, the standard of the competition has been a little inconsistent, but the introduction of some exciting players from some of the traditional football nations will help to bolster the local game and take it to the next level.

Let's hope the Victory do their homework during the off-season, because as we all know, the expectation will be greater and there'll be no margin for error this time around.

And Finally...

I would just like to take this opportunity to reiterate what I wrote in my first Krunchlines for 2006 by extending my compliments to Kingston City's Panos Margari-

tis and Jim Rezos, as well as Richmond's Helmut Kalitzki.

These men have put their money where their mouth is over the last few years and occasionally are the target for some unfair criticisms. If you know these men, like I do, you'll learn to understand that they operate with great energy and passion for the game.

It must be pointed out, that money is just a means to achieve, but their desire to contribute to the welfare of the game as a whole is unquestionable. Let's hope the players can repay the faith.



BOO'S WORLD

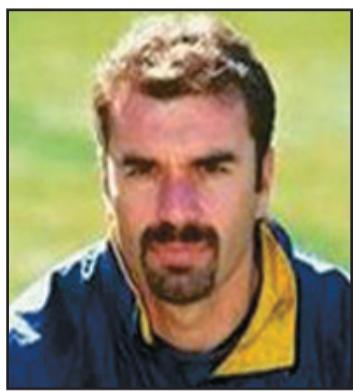
A satirical look at the World of Football according to Mark Boric

I've been kicking myself this week (not a Kevin Muscat training drill) about wasting a lucrative money making opportunity.

With a bit of forethought I could have registered the domain name sackange.com and sold it on to this week's bunch of disillusioned football fans. No Under 17's Word Cup Finals for Australia, coming second in their group to traditional Asian junior football powerhouse Laos. I reckon they will go with sackange as it is shorter and easier to remember than sackpostecoglu.

Greece is coming to the MCG to play Australia. There has been a bit of talk about the nature of the crowd

and who it will be supporting, so I advocate some kind of ticket allocation along the lines of how Cricket Australia are planning to ensure the Barmy Army don't outnumber



Ange Postecoglou...
Coming soon to a website
petition near you

ber Aussies in the next home Ashes series. And if you are

serious about rigging ticket draws, Warren Livingstone of the Fanatics is the bloke to speak to, I am reliably informed.

The A League finals are on. Melbourne Victory (it is a victory not to finish bottom of the league) are not in them. How many people would have believed this could happen on that day when Melbourne defeated Sydney FC 5-0 last October? Not many, I suspect.

If you ever want to hear some unbiased radio commentary on the local game, don't tune into 1116 SEN when Paul Trimboli is covering a South Melbourne Vodafone Cup match. He can be compared to Eddie Maguire, except he

isn't the South President or runs SEN.

I would still like to know why the Kat's In The Cradle column gets a picture with stunners in it? Last year it was Eddie Krncevic getting looked after at PING Eatery and Bar, now it is George Katsamboukas getting all the favours. I could start doing a Shannon Noll and covering a Moving Pictures song here, but I am not a petty man.

Actually, I am. What about me? It isn't fair, I've had enough now I want my share!

Until next week, you just take more than you give.

NEWS FROM THE VALLEY

Diamond Valley's preparation for the 2006 season is well under way.

Training began early January under new coach Frank Binyazar.

Binyazar has taken over the reins from Willie Raynes and will be assisted by Paul De La Rocca. Binyazar played for Albion in the Premier League from 1988 -94.

He then had coaching jobs at North Coburg 2000/01 in Division One, before moving onto Moreland in Division Two N/W as a player, before again assuming the role as coach in 2003/04.

De La Rocca comes from a soccer dynasty and played with the mighty Juventus in their halcyon days in the old NSL, followed by a stint at Bulleen.

Jimmy Cincar has been appointed as fitness coach and former Heidelberg United and Eltham player Con Moulas will take the reserve side.

Valley has lost Adem Tavsan-cioglu and Sercan Doganay to North Coburg, while Arsenio

De Camillo is seeking another club.

Tony Di Petro will also be missing due to a transfer overseas with his job.

The welcomes back two members of a successful youth side of 1994/95 in David Agostinelli and David Cresse. Joe Fedele has also returned to The Valley after three years whilst on a soccer safari around Melbourne.

Attendance at training has been high with several new faces expected to sign up.

Names to be released once pen has been put to paper. Valley had its first practice game on Saturday against Northern falcons and will play Plenty Valley this coming Saturday. KO's 1pm & 3pm.

Training is on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 7pm at Partington Flats and at 9am on Saturdays. There is also a voluntary session on Mondays at 7pm.

For further information call the club on 9432 6798, or the secretary on 0413 339 428.

By Gordon Kirkwood.

JOKE OF THE WEEK

Have you heard that the Scottish FA have just released a new DVD on the national team's accomplishments over the last decade?

It's called "101 Great Throw Ins".

QUICK QUIZ

- 1/ Who has taken over the coaching duties at Green Gully Reserve?
- 2/ Which team will the Socceroos host at the MCG in May ?
- 3/ Nick Crossley has been selected to the Australian U/23 squad. Which Vodafone Cup team does he play for ?
- 4/ Australia's first game in the Asian Cup is against whom?
- 5/ Who scored Melbourne Victory's final goal of its inaugural A-league campaign?
- 6/ Name the captain of Sunshine Georgies FC.
- 7/ New Essendon Royals coach, Luciano Trani, was once with which Queensland NSL side?
- 8/ Brad Zeally plays in goal for which Vodafone Cup team?
- 9/ Michael Curcija finished as last season's top scorer in the VPL. How many goals did he score?
- 10/ Who played at an FA Cup Final and a Wimbledon Cup Final in the same season?

Quiz answers...Look to the right of this page

ON THE BOX

The FFV Football Show

Channel 31
Wednesday, 9pm
Oakleigh v Heidelberg
Bulleen v Green Gully

The Green Gully Soccer Show

Channel 31
Saturdays, 3pm

EPL, West Ham v Birmingham City

Fox Sports 2
Tuesday 14th Feb, 7am

EPL, Liverpool v Arsenal

Fox Sports 2
Wednesday 15th Feb, 7am

EPL, Blackburn v Sunderland

Fox Sports 2
Thursday 16th Feb, 7am

The World Game

SBS
Sundays, 2pm – 5.30pm

ON THE AIRWAVES

The Sunday Roast Show

Casey radio 97.7FM
Sunday, 2-5pm

Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup with Paul Jefferies

The 90th Minute

SEN 1116

Sundays 5pm onwards
Featuring Michael Zappone and Paul Trimboli



Monday Night Football

96.5 Inner FM

Mondays 8pm

Featuring coverage of the Vodafone Cup

This week: Bulleen v Green Gully

GiveMeFootball

QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1. Andrew Marth
- 2. Greece
- 3. Richmond Eagles
- 4. Bahrain
- 5. Kevin Muscat
- 6. many Muscat
- 7. Brisbane Strikers
- 8. Frankston Pires
- 9. 15 goals.
- 10. The band.



Club Deals

International Shirts and gear

Open Tues - Sun

450 Queen Street

Melbourne

(Opp. Vic Market)

Ph: 9326 4100 Fax: 9326 4111

E: onlysport@ozemail.com.au

Bayside Football League

With Steve Gray

CHARITY SHIELD SENDS A MESSAGE

Already you can feel that this year's charity shield is going to be something special. Last years' left an imprint on many who braved the weather and contributed to what was a highly successful day at Boronia Soccer Club.

This time around the day has been moved back to its original place on the calendar, which is the curtain raiser for the league.

Seaford United, the club where young James Verlander participated as a junior will be the host venue, much to the delight of his family along with the Bayside League. On top of that, the league is extremely grateful to all the clubs who put their hand up in a bid to host this event.

At the last league meeting, the Bayside League donated \$2500 to the Verlander family where they split the monies towards different charities and other causes.

This included Challenge, Very Special Kids, and bands for the upcoming Charity Day to raise more money and also to

Liam's family.

To understand what this day means to so many, please read the following. The article was gratefully provided by the Verlander family.

The idea of the Charity Shields was for the League to give something back to the community.

The League was very generous in raising money to buy a small motorbike and equipment for young James Verlander who was diagnosed with cancer.

James was diagnosed with cancer when he was seven years old. After intensive Chemo the cancer was thought to be in remission.

A year later into his remission, the cancer had returned and James was unable to have any more Chemo and other treatments were sought but were unable to stop the cancer.

He died at the age of 10 in 2002.



Thanks to generosity of the League and its members young James was able to enjoy the final part of his life riding the motorbike we donated to him.

The following year the League thought it could build on this selfless generosity and created the Charity Shields and made them part of their fixtures.

Money raised on the day would go towards Charities that would benefit from our donations and follow in the legacy of James Verlander. i.e.. Very Special Kids and Challenge.

NEW CLUBS RECEIVE VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

The Bayside Football Association has gained the attention of many clubs interested in joining the league.

Three new clubs were voted in and accepted into the league at the recent league meeting held at the Sand Hotel in Carrum Downs.

Mt Lilydale Old Collegians, Cranbourne Comets and Parkmore were all in attendance and were required to first seek the clubs permission to join the league by way of giving a speech as to their inten-

tions, past disciplinary problems, venue and other points of interest.

All three clubs were given the vote of confidence by the current member clubs.

Mt Lilydale was very solid in its approach towards the member clubs. Being a newly formed club Mt Lilydale already believes it has two teams ready to go and the club has also signed various sponsors as well as a coach for this coming season. They may even be joining straight into the Pre-

mier League if a vacancy is forthcoming.

Parkmore Soccer Club has been around for many years. They have competed in the FFV Provisional League and more recently the Amateur Leagues. The representative of the club did say that the club did have past problems whilst in the FFV but assured the current members that those problems are very much part of the past.

The club also owns their own venue that can be used all season round. They plan to field one team this season, most likely in

the first division.

The Cranbourne Comets is a very strong club in both the senior men's and even more so in the senior women's competition in the Football FFV leagues. They wish to expand their horizon by creating a thirds team to enter the BFA. This is not the first time Cranbourne has fielded a team in the BFA as it was all the way back in 1982 that Cranbourne won what is currently known as the division one.

BAYSIDE LJ HOOKER CUP & CASEY CUP FIXTURES

Schedule for Tournament commencing Sunday the 12th of February. The opening of the tournament will run in a group stage as follows

Ground A is the top ground, Ground B is the bottom ground

Group A : Julio All Stars, Bayswater, Langwarrin and Hampton Park
Group B : Brighton Old Boys, Pines Condors, Westernport, Boronia

Week One Sunday the 12th of February 2006

Ground A
1:30pm Julio All Stars v Bayswater
3:30pm Langwarrin v Hampton Park

Ground B
1:00pm Brighton Old Boys v Pines Condors
3:00pm Westernport v Boronia

Week Two Sunday the 19th of February 2006

Ground A
1:30pm Pines Condors v Boronia
3:30pm Brighton Old Boys v Westernport

Ground B
1:00pm Julio All Stars v Langwarrin
3:00pm Bayswater v Hampton Park

Week Three Sunday the 26th of February 2006

Ground A
1:30pm Pines Condors v Westernport
3:30pm Brighton Old Boys v Boronia

Ground B
1:00pm Julio All Stars v Hampton Park
3:00pm Bayswater v Langwarrin

Week Four Sunday the 5th of March 2006 Semi Finals

Ground A 1:30pm Winner of group A v Runner-up of Group B
Casey Cup 3:30pm Winner of group B v Runner-up of Group A

Ground B 1:00pm Third in Group A v Fourth in Group B
LJ Hooker Shield 3:00pm Third in Group B v Fourth in Group A

Week Five Sunday the 12th of March 2006 Finals and 3rd place play off
Ground A 1:30pm FINAL OF LJ HOOKER SHIELD
3:30pm FINAL OF CASEY CUP

Ground B 1:00pm PLAY-OFF OF LJ HOOKER SHIELD
3:00pm PLAY-OFF OF CASEY CUP



HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE FINALS

ALL SQUARE AT HINDMARSH STADIUM

This game would be decided by the forward power of the glamour club Sydney FC against the defensive workman like approach of the minor premiers Adelaide United.

Four goals in a frantic first half would have pleased Sydney. So much more than the home side, especially as the visitors went 2-1 down within a period of just five minutes of the second half and after taking an early lead which they very much deserved. Sydney was the more composed of the two sides during the early stages of this game. Sydney gained the upper hand as the Adelaide midfield gave the ball away in the middle of the park and took advantage when Steve Corica netted his fourth goal of the

season. Corica slotted the ball over an advancing Adelaide keeper to give the visitors a deserved one-goal lead.

The game's tempo lifted on the 20th-minute mark as the home side created a couple of half chances, which gave the home supporters some hope. The movement off the ball by Sydney on the counter attack was causing Adelaide coach John Kosmina some concern.

The pressure being put on the home side's midfield almost put the visitors in front when a Dwight Yorke shot was cleared of the line, then within thirty seconds Adelaide brought the home crowd to their feet with a goal from Travis Dodd. Two minutes later from a deep corner Fernando Rech rose above the Sydney defence to put the home

side in front.

Its lead was short lived when the ever dangerous Sash Petrovski scored his first goal in ten games after finishing of a super Matt Bingley cross.

The second half started with the Sydney captain Dwight Yorke getting himself needlessly booked and as the clock ticked towards the hour mark both sides took a more measured approach to the rest of the match.

As the game moved towards its conclusion Sydney coach Pier Littbarski took a more defensive look to his side as the home side tried to push forward and grab that important third goal.

In the last ten minutes tempers got a bit frayed and Petrovski got himself booked for a stupid challenge and the ref had to go over and speak to the Sydney coach and tell him not to get involved.

With both teams locked at two goals a piece the second half failed to match the fireworks of the opening period but it will be Sydney FC who will be the happier of the two sides going into the second leg next week. However, as we all know, the away teams have faired much better during the home and away season and Adelaide will be hoping this is the case next week.

By Paul Jeffries

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE FINAL STANDINGS

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Adelaide Utd	21	13	4	4	33	25	43
2. Sydney FC	21	10	6	5	35	28	36
3. CC Mariners	21	8	8	5	35	28	32
4. Newcastle	21	9	4	8	27	29	31
5. Perth Glory	21	8	5	8	34	29	29
6. QLD Roar	21	7	7	7	27	22	28
7. Melbourne	21	7	5	9	26	24	26
8. NZ Knights	21	1	3	17	15	47	6

MARINERS SHOOT PAST JETS IN FIRST LEG

The Central Coast Mariners will head into Friday's Minor Semi Final Second Leg at Central Coast Stadium on the back of an impressive 1-0 win against the Newcastle United Jets tonight.

Former Young Socceroo Matthew Osman, recalled to the Mariners starting side after an appearance off the bench last Saturday in Brisbane, was the hero for the Mariners - his 73rd minute goal the only difference between two sides desperate for a shot at the Preliminary Final and east coast bragging rights.

Aside from claiming a priceless advantage ahead of the reverse leg at Central Coast Stadium, the Mariners also claimed the record for the longest unbeaten stretch in the Hyundai A-League's brief history – ten matches after tonight's result.

Osman's second half goal now puts the Mariners in the box set for a berth in the Preliminary Final, with their opponents needing to break the Mariners' four match unbeaten run at their Central Coast home to have a chance of progressing past the first stage of the finals series.

"We came here thinking that a draw would be a good result, so to come away with a win is fantastic," said Mariners Football Manager Lawrie McKinna after the match.

"The tie definitely isn't over though, the Jets are still alive and we'll have to work very hard to finish the job next week."

Although the first half was certainly not a one-sided affair, the visitors did well to weather a series of attacking raids from the home side that yielded a string of clear cut chances.

Matthew Thompson and Paul Kohler were each provided with opportunities one on one against Mariners custodian Danny Vukovic, only to blast their chances over the cross bar.

Indeed, Mariners skipper Noel Spencer was the source of the Mariners only real chance of the opening stanza – a typically fierce long range drive that forced a neat save from Jets 'keeper Liam Reddy.

After the break, the Mariners looked a much improved outfit but were still forced to deal with a host of Newcastle attacks.

Much in accordance with recent weeks, Mariners goalkeeper Vukovic was nothing short of

outstanding and made a host of telling saves to preserve the Central Coast's clean sheet.

The momentum that brought the Mariners their prized goal arrived midway through the second half, when key attacking duo Andre Gumprecht and Tom Pondeljak began to assert their authority on a tiring Jets backline.

However, it was right flanker Wayne O'Sullivan that was the provider for Osman's crucial goal, with the former Irish youth international supplying an inch perfect cross that was well met by captain Spencer.

Jets number one Reddy produced some fine work with the gloves to deflect Spencer's try, but only as far as Osman who made no mistake with his subsequent headed effort.

Osman's goal was his second of the season and the Mariners' first at EnergyAustralia Stadium (their previous visit ended in a 1-0 loss), making the Mariners one of a elite crop of clubs to have scored a goal and claimed at least a point at every Hyundai A-League venue.

Despite being contented with a precious away victory, McKenna was left to lament two late chances to Pondeljak and O'Sullivan that were denied by outstanding saves from Reddy.

"We're happy with the win, but it could have been two or three nil, Reddy was brilliant," said McKenna.

"Another goal would have made our job a lot easier next week, but we're still in as good a position as we could have hoped."

McKinna also paid tribute to an overwhelming number of Mariners fans that made the trek north, with several thousand highlighting the 10,236 crowd with yellow.

"Traveling fans are what make derbies what they are and our support tonight was amazing," said McKinna.

"The scenes from our supporters area when Osman put our goal in were as good as I've seen from any supporters group anywhere in the world, hopefully there'll be even more of them at Central Coast Stadium this Friday."

"Everyone at the Mariners really appreciates the support of our fans and everyone who turned up tonight in should be commended for their efforts, their presence really made a difference."

HYUNDAI A-LEAGUE FINALS DETAILS

Adelaide United 2
T. Dodd 31st, F. Rech 33rd

Sydney FC 2
S. Corica 9th, S. Petrovski 39th

Venue: Hindmarsh Stadium
Crowd: 15, 104

Central Coast 1
M. Osman 76th

Newcastle Jets 0

Central Coast Mariners: Danny Vukovic (gk), Wayne O'Sullivan, Noel Spencer, Michael Beauchamp, Andre Gumprecht, Dean Heffernan, Tom Pondeljak (Adam Kwasnik 91'), Stewart Petrie (Jamie McMaster 92'), Andrew Clark, Matthew Osman (Damien Brown 77'), Alex Wilkinson

Unused Subs Paul O'Grady, Matthew Trott (gk)

Bookings Beauchamp 60'

Goal Osman 73'

Newcastle United Jets: Liam Reddy (gk), Jade North, Ned Zelic, Richard Johnson, Matthew Thompson (Labinot Haliti 82'), Ante Milicic, Nick Carle, Paul Kohler, Mateo Corbo, Al-Ian Picken, Vaughan Coveny

Unused Subs Steve Eagleton, Jobe Wheelhouse, Stuart Musialik, Andy Petterson (gk)

Bookings Corbo 18', Picken 59'

Referee Ben Williams
Crowd 10,236